SUNDAY
February 25, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
speaking on the democratic principles
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Published by : The Commissioner, Social Welfare Department

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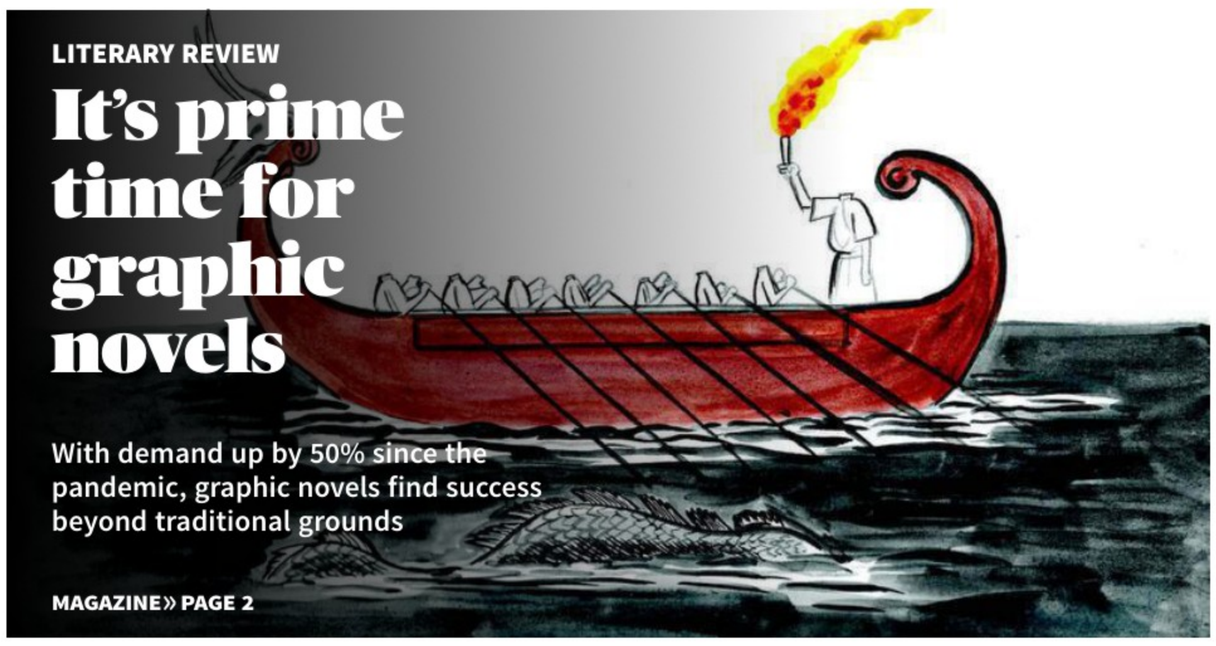

LITERARY REVIEW

It's prime time for graphic novels

With demand up by 50% since the pandemic, graphic novels find success beyond traditional grounds

MAGAZINE» PAGE 2

Three criminal laws to come into force on July 1

NEWS » PAGE 8

Is the Ukraine war changing the world order?

FAQ » PAGE 13

Bashir puts India on the back foot in Ranchi Test

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Motorists get fake WhatsApp messages to pay traffic fines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Motorists throng Traffic Management Centre to pay fines. FILE PHOTO

Vehicle owners in Bengaluru are now being cheated by cyber fraudsters in the name of collecting fines for violation of traffic norms. Several cases have come to light recently, where motorists have turned up at the Traffic Management Centre complaining that they were receiving notices to pay fines from Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) even after paying them online.

Investigation into these cases has uncovered a new modus operandi employed by cyber frauds, where they send messages to motorists through WhatsApp, informing them of the penalties pending, with a QR code to pay them.

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SPECIAL DRIVE BY POLICE
» PAGE 2

Bitter rivals Congress, AAP seal alliance deal

The AAP will contest four seats in Delhi, leaving three to Congress; no alliance in Punjab and Assam over 'special circumstances', say parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

AAP and Congress leaders announce their seat-sharing deal at a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have arrived at a seat-sharing understanding in Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, and Chandigarh, in a bid to defeat the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha election, they said on Saturday.

In a joint press conference addressed by leaders of both parties, Congress leader Mukul Wasnik said that after prolonged discussions, the two parties have arrived at a 4:3 deal for the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. The AAP will contest from the New Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi, and East Delhi seats, while the Congress will contest from the Chandni Chowk, Northeast Delhi, and Northwest Delhi seats.

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Indian 'helper' dies in Russian war zone

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man from Gujarat who was hired as a security helper by the Russian Army was killed in a Ukrainian air strike on Wednesday in the Donetsk region on the Russia-Ukraine border, another Indian worker who escaped the attack told *The Hindu*.

The man, identified as Hemil Ashvinbhai Mangukiya, a resident of Surat district, had gone to Russia in December 2023 and was subsequently attached with the Russian Army. An agent had written to the Indian consulate on behalf of his father earlier this month, asking for help to bring him back home. Several other Indians on contract with Russian forces have also sought the support of the Indian Embassy.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officials said that they had not been informed about this particular incident.

Ashvinbhai Mangukiya, the father of the deceased, told *The Hindu* that he had last spoken with his son on February 20 but refused to provide any other details.

Sameer Ahmad, 23, a resident of Gulbarga in Karnataka, told *The Hindu* that Mangukiya was killed as he was struck by missiles.

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NEARBY

'Bring to power those who respect Constitution'

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urged people "not to tolerate defamation against the Constitution" and bring to power "those who respect the Constitution". He said that a political democracy can succeed only when it rests on the foundations of social democracy.

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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 17
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

After a 11-year gap, Centre discloses key consumption expenditure survey data

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

For the first time in about 11 years, the government on Saturday released the broad findings of the All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey carried out between August 2022 and July 2023.

The data will play a key role in reviewing critical economic indicators, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), poverty levels, and the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI).

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every five years. However, findings of the last survey, conducted in 2017-18 soon after the demonetisation of high-value currency notes and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), were never released after the government cited "data quality" issues.

As per the survey, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) in Indian households rose by 33.5% since 2011-12 in urban households to ₹3,510, with rural India's MPCE seeing a 40.42% increase over the same period to hit ₹2,008.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Food spending

Share of cereals and food in average monthly per capita consumption expenditure decreased in both rural and urban areas

Period	RURAL		URBAN	
	% share of cereals	% share of food	% share of cereals	% share of food
1999-00	22.23	59.4	12.39	48.06
2004-05	17.45	53.11	9.63	40.51
2009-10	13.77	56.98	8.16	44.39
2011-12	10.75	52.9	6.66	42.62
2022-23	4.91	46.38	3.64	39.17

City civic authorities hold meeting on water crisis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With drinking water crisis plaguing several parts of the city even before summer has begun, the BWSSB and BBMP held a meeting and resolved to dig borewells in 58 localities.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has said that these areas faced the most acute crisis and ₹131 crore had been disbursed to dig borewells already. There were 10,995 government borewells in the city, and of them, water levels have decreased in 3,700 borewells and 1,214 have completely dried up, setting off alarm bells.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 2
ARECA GROWERS BUY WATER
» PAGE 6

How three lakh tulips bloomed in Delhi

The city's winter tulip gardens bring delight to residents, foster pride among caretakers, and see some concern from environmentalists; this year's plantation was from bulbs bought for ₹87 lakh

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Over the past week, pictures of Delhi's tulips in bloom have been shared across social media and WhatsApp groups. City residents passing by Shantipath in the diplomatic enclave, runners' haunt Nehru Park, and Lodhi Garden where history and modernity meet, have all marvelled at the sight.

In a bid to fulfil Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena's promise when he took charge in May 2022, to make Delhi a "City of joy, city of flowers", three lakh tulip bulbs were imported from the Netherlands in December 2023: two lakh for NDMC-governed areas and one lakh for the Delhi Development Authority (DDA, which it paid for).

Tulips along Shantipath on a sunny afternoon in New Delhi.

According to NDMC sources, the cost of a single tulip bulb was between ₹25 and ₹30, with a total approved cost of ₹87 lakh, of the ₹120.69 crore NDMC horticulture budget for 2023-24. This is the second year of tulip plantation in the city.

Along with other gardeners, Raju (name changed to protect privacy), 43, was trained by NDMC's horticulture department in the art of raising tulips in the national capital. For the past two years, he has treated the bulbs with care, transferring them from the Tulip Growth Cum Storage Chamber established at Lodhi Garden to flower beds in Central Delhi, where prominent government offices are situated.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

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Carts to cars: Crowded streets in Medaram as devotees arrive at the historic Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara.

Festive crowd: Devotees throng the Sammakka-Saralamma jatara.

Traditions alive: A member of the Koya tribe dressed in traditional attire blesses devotees.

Offerings in hand: Women carry bundles of jaggery, considered as precious as gold, to be offered to the deities at Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara.

A sacrifice immortalised

Held biennially in the month of February, the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara is hailed as the nation's biggest tribal fair

Nagara Gopal
nagara.gopal@thehindu.co.in

The quaint village of Medaram, nestled in the rugged landscape of Mulugu district in Telangana, turns host to a grand spectacle biennially – the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, hailed as the nation's largest tribal fair. The fair honours tribal warriors for their supreme sacrifice defending tribal people's rights.

Legend has it that in the 12th century, a tribal chieftain Medaraju of 'Polavasa' region found a baby in a forest during a hunting spree. He named her Sammakka, brought her up and got her married to Pagidigidda Raju, a tribal leader of Medaram, who was a feudatory of Kakatiya rulers. Sammakka had three children Nagulamma, Saralamma and Jampanna.

When the then Kakatiya king insisted on payment of taxes by people of Medaram despite a drought, Pagidigidda Raju refused. Enraged, the king announced a war on Medaram. Undeterred by the military might of the Kakatiya reign, Sammakka and her husband joined the battle. Sammakka, unfazed by the death of her husband, daughter and son, continued the fight and suffered grievous injuries. She vanished into Chilakalagutta hillock nearby and is believed to have turned into a goddess to protect her tribe.

Sammakka and Saralamma began to be revered as goddesses, and devotees make offerings to please them to receive health and wealth. Held on the full moon day in the month of *Magha* (February) the Jatara rituals are held in tune with tribal traditions under the aegis of tribal priests, and attracts a footfall of around two crore. Though it started as a small gathering of the Koya tribals, the Jatara earned State festival status in 1998. Beyond its religious fervour, this biennial gathering stands as a beacon of hope and preservation, safeguarding the rich tapestry of tribal traditions and heritage.

Safe shelter: Temporary sheds erected to accommodate devotees at the event.

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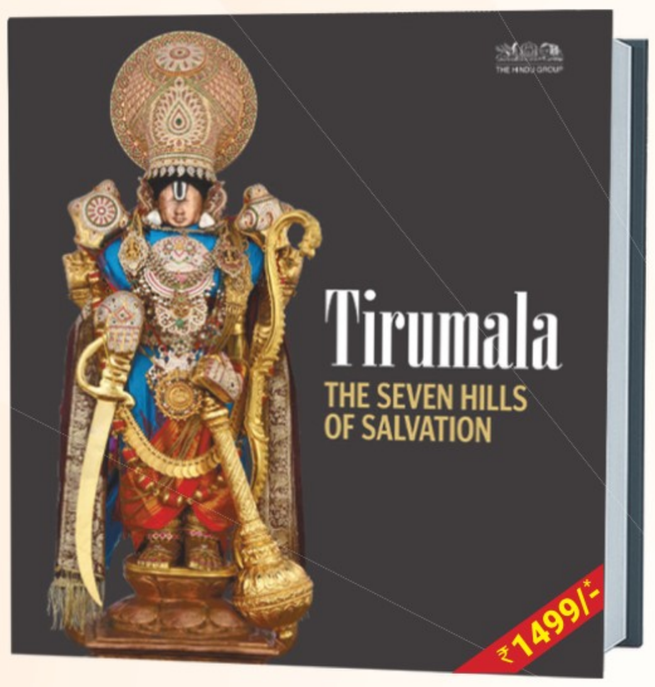

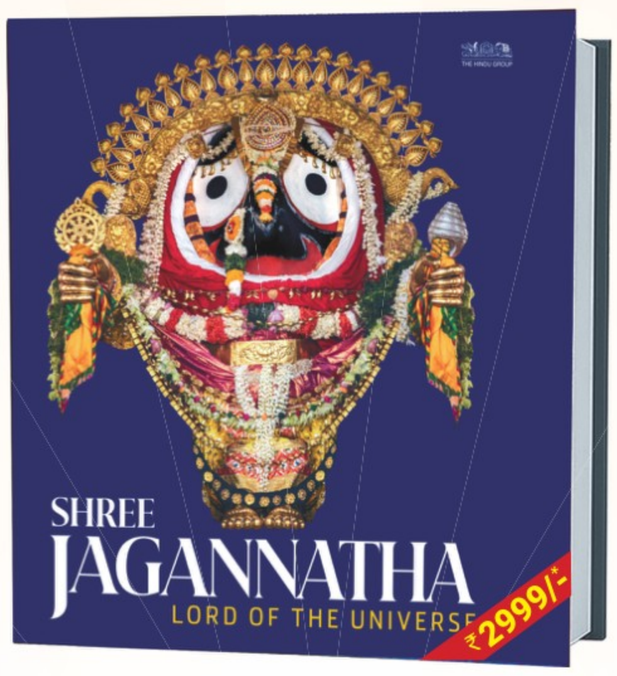

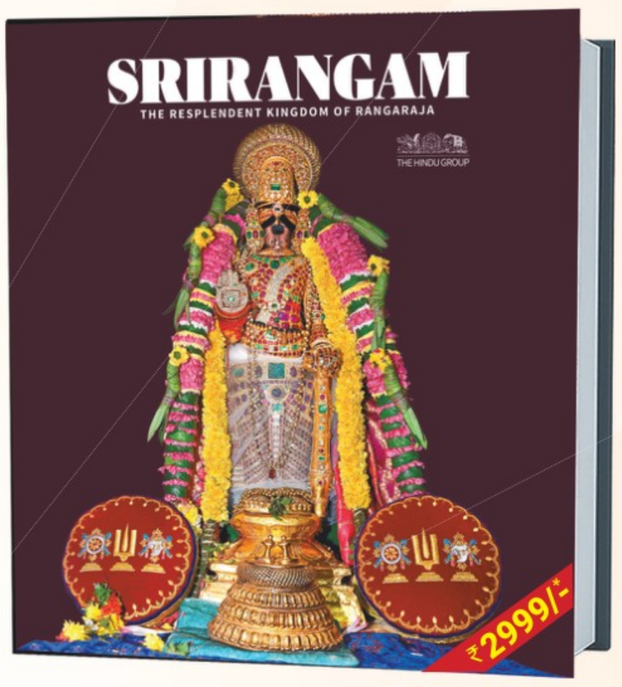

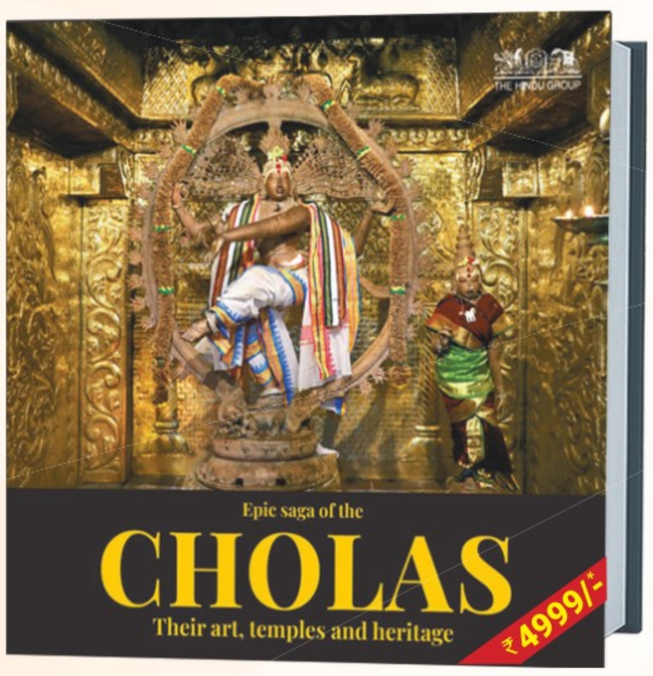

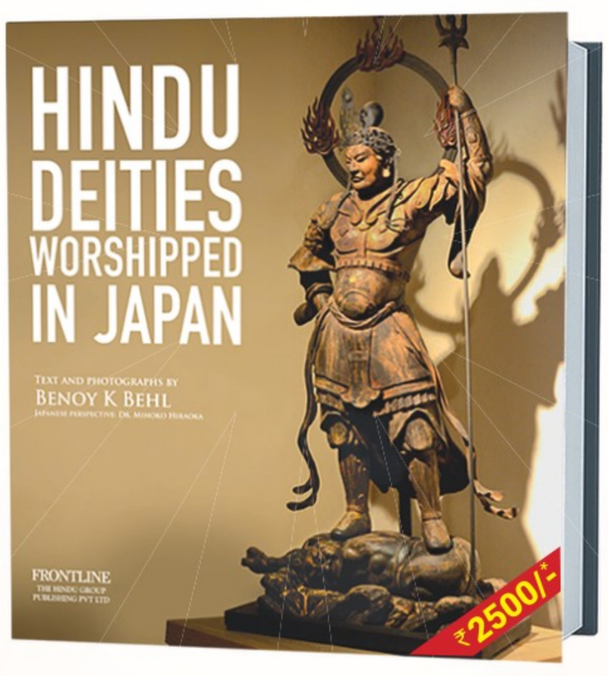

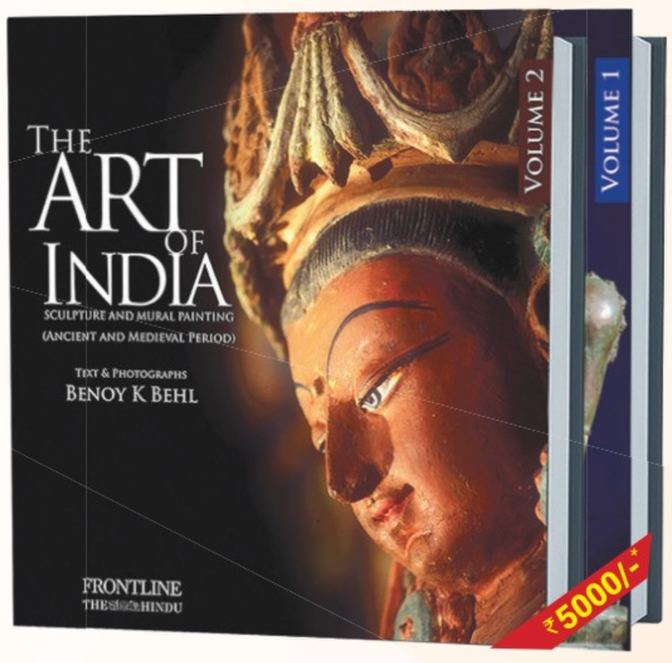

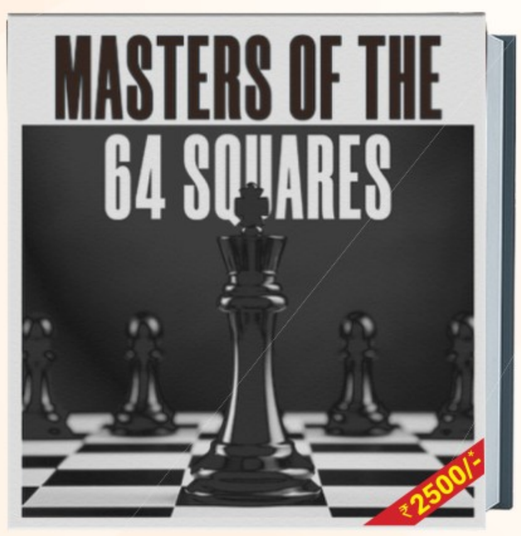

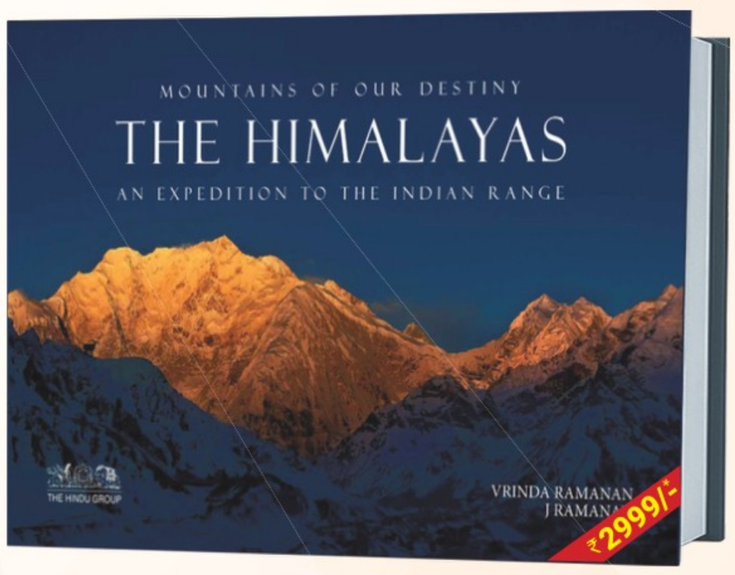

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J BG-BGE

Special drive to track 2,858 vehicles having over ₹50,000 in traffic fine dues

In total, these vehicles have 3.6 lakh cases and ₹18.96 crore traffic fine pending against them

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Last week, Bengaluru Traffic Police tracked down and seized a scooter of a small-time businessman from Sudhama Nagar. There were over 400 cases for traffic norm violations against the vehicle and the pending dues was a steep ₹3.04 lakh.

When confronted by the traffic police and served notice to clear all pending dues, the shocked businessman requested them to take away his scooter instead, which is estimated to be worth only ₹20,000. However, the police though nevertheless seized the scooter, turned down his request, and warned him to pay the fine or face legal action including an FIR. The businessman has now requested time to pay the fine.

Traffic cases and fines

- Number of vehicles with traffic fines over ₹50,000: 2,858
- Total number of cases against them: 3,60,453
- Total amount of fine: ₹18.96 crore
- On an average, each vehicle has 126 cases and ₹66,340 in fine
- The vehicle with the largest amount of fine (₹3.05 lakh) has 496 cases

This is one among the two cases, where two-wheelers have over ₹3 lakh fine amount pending against them, now being recovered in a special drive launched two weeks ago. The special drive is focusing on tracking down vehicles with fine dues of over ₹50,000 pending against them, said M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic). "This special drive is one of the many such drives we have launched recently, including against school bus drivers, and water tankers among others to ensure traffic discipline among road users," he said.

There are 2858 vehicles, most of them two-wheelers against which traffic fines over ₹50,000 are pending, including two with over ₹3 lakh fines pending. There are 3,60,453 cases pending against 2858 vehicles and in total, they have a fine outstanding of ₹18.96 crore. That makes it on an average 126 cases and ₹66,340 pending against each vehicle.

BTP officials have so far tracked down over 400 vehicles in the last two weeks. Jumping signals and not wearing helmets are the most common offences and maximum offenders are two-wheeler riders, a senior police officer said.

BTP had over the last two years shifted its focus away from enforcement to traffic management on the streets, opting for contactless enforcement. These vehicle owners haven't responded to notices, have not paid fines, and in many cases, they have shifted houses, notices haven't reached them, and vehicles have been sold off but records have not been updated. Jurisdictional police have been tasked with tracking down these vehicles and collecting fines based on the address of the owners. In each case police are conducting a detailed probe before seizing the vehicle and slapping fines, a senior official said.

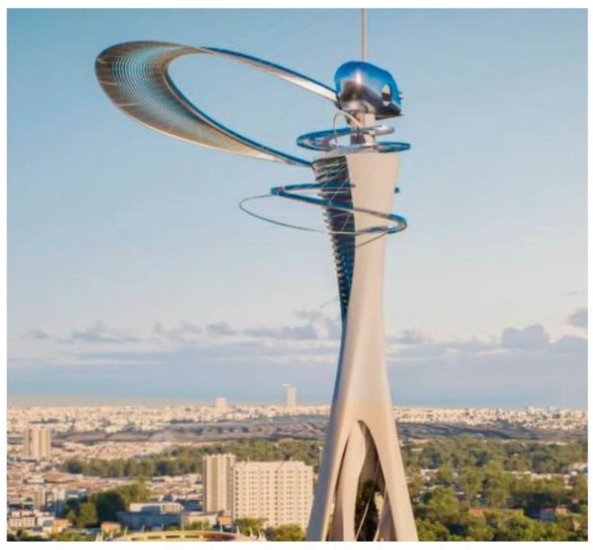
NGEF land finalised as the site for 250 metre long Skydeck

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Construction of the country's tallest Skydeck in Bengaluru may soon become reality as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to build it on New Government Electric Factory (NGEF) land near Byappanahalli Metro Station. The BBMP had also considered Karnataka Soaps and Detergent Limited (KSDL) land but NGEF land will be more feasible, the civic body decided as the land parcel is already being developed into a cultural hub and the skydeck will be an added attraction.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath talking to *The Hindu* said the civic body has finalised New Government Electric Factory (NGEF) land and the same should be approved by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Giri Nath further informed about this ambitious project that was announced in the recent Budget and said of the 105 acres of NGEF land, 10 acres of land is specifically identified to build the tallest Skydeck of 250-metre height. "We will be soon holding a meeting with the Chief Minister and he has to approve the land for the project," he said. He said for this project, the place is ideal as it is close to the metro station and will help boost metro ridership too. "We are also promoting the metro by setting up Skydeck here." He added that while entry to the area may not be ticketed, the BBMP may ticket to those visiting the Skydeck.


Initially, 10 acres of land was identified for the Skydeck project. But it may take up more land if the government decides to build a museum and other attractions. FILE PHOTO

Although initially 10 acres of land is identified for the Skydeck project, the project may take up more land if the government decides to build a museum and other attractions. The BBMP should also work towards establishing a parking lot as after the completion of the project thousands of people would rush to this place, a senior civic official said.

The State government has already put in place a plan for 105-acre NGEF land to develop it into a tree park with an innovation hub and a cultural hub. The proposed skydeck will be an addition to these plans for the parcel of land, sources said.

The BBMP had earlier invited global tender for preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the skydeck project and ₹3 crore has been allocated for the same. The skydeck project is expected to cost in the range of ₹400 to ₹500 crore, sources in the BBMP said. Candidates bidding for the DPR consultancy should demonstrate a track record of having completed DPR for tall structures over the past five years. The selected consultant has to submit three different conceptual designs, complete with 3D rendering and walk-throughs, to the reviewing committee.

THtalksBengaluru with KSEAB chairperson on February 26

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Manjushree

The State government has decided to conduct three annual examinations for SSLC and II PU students from this year.

To clear any confusion or anxiety about the exam among students, *The Hindu* has organised THtalksBengaluru, an online interaction with N. Manjushree,chairperson, Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), on February 26 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Log on to https://youtube.com/live/j3zBvr-ODCI?feature=share to chat with the chairperson live, or mail your questions to us at thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in

BBMP directs drilling borewells in 58 areas with drinking water crisis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath directed officials to dig borewells in 58 areas which are reeling under drinking water crisis.

Mr. Giri Nath said ₹131 crore has been disbursed to dig borewells in Mahadevapura, R.R. Nagar, Bommanahalli, Dasarahalli, and Yelahanka including 110 villages.

He was speaking after a coordination meeting held with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and BBMP which was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Urban Development Department, Rakesh Singh.

Mr. Giri Nath said that they had identified 58 areas in the city that suffer from acute water crisis. Of the 58, 16 are in Mahadevapura, 25 in R.R. Nagar, five in Bommanahalli and three each in Yelahanka and Dasarahalli zones.

He directed the officials to call tenders to dig borewells to supply water. He also told the BWSSB officials to dig borewells in Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants to keep the supply to the units intact.

People queue up for potable water at a 'water ATM' at Rajarajeshwarinagar on Saturday. People in many parts of Bengaluru are facing difficulty owing to water scarcity and depleting levels in borewells. K. MURALI KUMAR

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said that there were 10,995 government borewells in the city and of them, water levels had decreased in 3,700 borewells and 1,214 borewells had completely dried up. He further said that BWSSB had identified 257 dry spots in the city, where drinking water had become a problem and was taking measures to supply water to these areas through water tankers.

Apart from 68 water tankers the BWSSB presently has, they have rented over 200 more tankers and are in the process of buying 18 more, he said. He informed that for 110 villages, 40,000 water supply connections are provided and tankers are also being used.

Meanwhile, the city needs 9.48 tmcft of water from Cauvery between February and July 2024, which the city's civic agencies hope will be prioritised and provided for.

Boy drowns in water-filled quarry

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A seven-year-old boy drowned in an abandoned water-filled stone quarry pit near Bellur (J) tanda on the outskirts of Kalaburagi city on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Neetesh N. Rathod.

Neetesh slipped into the water while standing on the edge of the quarry.

The Kalaburagi suburban police have registered a case.

From Page One

Motorists get fake WhatsApp messages to pay traffic fines

Many unsuspecting people have paid the fines, which have been swindled by cyber fraudsters.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru, has appealed to motorists not to fall for such frauds.

'Only through post'

"BTP sends notices through post only. We do not send WhatsApp messages and there is no option to pay the fines through a QR Code," he said.

BTP has now zeroed in on five unauthorised mobile applications available on Google Play Store, as a possible source of the cyber fraud. These apps have unauthorisedly been displaying fines for traffic violations against vehicles in the city. Many users have downloaded and have been using these apps.

"It is not clear whether messages to commuters to pay up with a QR code are being sent by these apps or cyber frauds are sending them by misusing the data on these apps. However, these apps are illegal and how they have accessed this data is a cause for concern" a senior official said.

Complaints against fIve apps

BTP has now lodged a complaint with Cyber Crime Police against the developers of five mobile applications – called Bangalore Traffic, Bangalore Traffic Check F, Traffic Bangalore, Bangalore Traffic Fine Checker, and Traffic Fines Bangalore – and BTP has asked Cyber Crime Police to have them removed from the Google Play Store.

Source of data

However, these apps and the cyber frauds now flagged by BTP have raised the question of the source of the traffic penalty data on these apps.

The FIR registered based on the complaint by Jagadisha C., Database Administrator, TMC, says that the complainant has alleged that the accused have accessed this data from Bangalore One portal, a government-owned integrated citizen services utility.

Sources in BTP said the only other authority with which BTP shares the traffic fines data is with the Bangalore One portal and they suspect the breach must have happened at the portal itself.

'India Book of Records' certificates given to Dharwad district administration

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Adjudicator of India Book of Records, Naravijay, on Saturday formally handed over record certificates to two events of the Constitution awareness programmes organised by Dharwad district administration.

India Book of Records has recognised 'Heritage Walk' and 'Torch Rally' conducted as part of constitution awareness programmes as records and Mr. Naravijay handed over the certificates to officials and elected representatives in the presence of Labour Minister and district in charge Santosh Lad.

While in the heritage walk held from KCD Circle to Buddha Rakkita School in Dharwad, over 10,000 students of schools and colleges and others had taken part, the torch rally held from Unakal to Rani Chennamma Circle in Hubballi had attracted participation of over 15,000 youths and people from different walks of life. Along with Mr. Lad, Deputy Commissioner of Dharwad Divya Prabhu, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Swaroopa T.K., Police Commissioner Renuka Sukumar, and others led these events.

Adjudicator of India Book of Records, Naravijay, handing over the certificates in Hubballi on Saturday. Labour Minister Santosh Lad and Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu are seen. KIRAN BAKALE

On Saturday, inaugurating the formal handing over of the certificates by the adjudicator, Mr. Lad elaborated how it was important to protect the Constitution of India, which in turn protected the rights of every citizen.

He said that legislators cutting across party lines had cooperated with the administration in carrying out the Constitution awareness programmes across the district.

He also briefed about how guarantee schemes had been taken to the people by spending ₹58,000 crore.

Chairman of Karnataka Slum Development Board Prasad Abbayya said that Dharwad district had become a model to other districts in the State by successfully organising various events for sensitising people about the Constitution.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 06/2024
Dated : 19-02-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the supply of following item.
Description in brief : Design, Supply, installation, commissioning and prove out of the machine, Electric Overhead Traveling Crane shall be Double girder as per parameters specified in Schedule-I (1,2?..n) conforming to the given specifications. **(Tender No. L8236975) (Qty : 1 Set.)**
Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 13-03-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/707/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.
Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-13 Dated : 19-02-2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification as Part of Construction of 12 m Wide FOB at Krishnarajapuram, Whitefield, Malur, Bangarapet and Kuppam Stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 1,86,41,372/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-03-2024**

Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-14 Dated : 19-02-2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification as Part of Construction of 12 m Wide FOB at Kengeri, Channapatna, Mandya, Ramanagaram and Dharmapuri Stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 3,02,82,990/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-03-2024**

Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-15 Dated : 19-02-2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification as Part of Construction of 12 m Wide FOB at Tumakuru, Doddaballapur, Malleswaram, Hindupur and Hosur Stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 3,14,44,740/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-03-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Gati Shakti Unit
PUB/708/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 04/SBC/24 of 16.02.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work - I :** Bengaluru - Dharmavaram Section : Increasing Sleeper Density of existing 52 kg PSC Sleepers of 1310/km to 1540/km for a length of 4.2 km in loop lines of SSE/PWAY/Yelahanka section [Channasandra : RD-1, RD-3 & RD-4, Yelahanka : RD-1 and RD-2 in Senior Divisional Engineer / North / Bengaluru Section]. **Sub Work - II :** Bengaluru - Sampige Road Section : Through Ballast Recoupment of Points & Crossings - 6 Points in Dodbele Yard and 4 Points in Hirehalli Yard - (Total 10 Nos.). **Sub Work - III :** Bengaluru - Sampige Road Section : TRR(P) for a length of 1.96 km of existing 52kg rails with 60 kg 90 UTS rail from Km 7/100-9/060 DN line between Chikka Banavara - Yesvantpur Section.	Rs. 66,60,806/-
2	**Sub Work - I :** Chikka Banavara - Hassan Section : Through ballast recoupment for a length of 7.881 km in looplines of B G Nagar, Hirisave, Shravanabelagola, Channarayapatna and Samudravalli Yards. **Sub Work - II :** Bengaluru - Salem Section : Through ballast recoupment of points and crossing at Dharmapuri, Rayakottai, Periya Naga Thunai, Kelamangalam and Banaswadi Yards - Total 11 Nos. in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri Section. **Sub Work - III :** Bengaluru - Salem Section : Through ballast recoupment of points and crossings 10 Nos (at Hosur yard) in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri Section.	Rs. 1,17,70,403/-
3	**Sub Work - I :** Collection of ballast including leading and loading at Periya Naga Thunai depot in connection with the work of Bengaluru - Salem CTR(P) for a length of 16km from 11/900-23/000 and 72/100-77/000 SL to replace D Mark rails. **Sub Work - II :** Bengaluru - Salem section : Collection of ballast including loading at Periya Naga Thunai Ballast depot in connection with the work of Through ballast recoupment for a length of 16.011km in looplines of Assistant Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri Sub Divisions. **Sub Work - III :** Bengaluru - Salem Section : Supply and dumping of ballast in connection with the work of Construction of track machine siding at Rayakottai Station in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri Section.	Rs. 4,45,40,041/-
4	Bengaluru - Mysuru Section : RUB in lieu of LC No. 16 at km 17/500-600 RCC box of size 2 x 5.00m x 5.00m by rolling / launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer / Mandya Sub Division. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 7,87,34,985/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 Hrs on 11-03-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination
PUB/706/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Offic of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer,
Electric Loco Shed, Erode.
E-Tender Notice
Online tender are invited for the following work:

Tender No.	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_23_24_22, Dated : 23.02.2024**
Description of work	**Contract for Transporation of equipments of Electric locomotives based a Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode**

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr. DEE/RS/ED
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

Faith in numbers: Devotees wait their turn to take a holy dip in the Jampanna Vagu river.

Cleansing waters: The Jampanna Vagu river is revered by those who take part in the prayers.

Finer details: A priest from the Koya tribe gets ready for rituals.

Crossing borders: Devotees from Nepal participate in the Jatara.

Seeking blessings: Devotees offer coconuts to the deities.

Man hoodwinks showroom employee, steals diamond worth ₹75 lakh in filmi style

The incident came to light the next day when a fake diamond was found during stock checking

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cubbon Park police are searching for a man who, posing as a prospective customer, stole a solitaire diamond worth ₹75 lakh from a gold ornaments showroom after hoodwinking the sales staff in a filmi style on February 18.

The accused entered the showroom on M.G. Road and asked for a solitaire diamond. A sales staff Shibin V.M., showed him the diamond and the customer asked him to show similar diamonds of different designs.

While the employee was busy getting other diamonds, the accused replaced the solitaire diamond with a fake one and left the place.

The incident came to light the next day when the staff checked the stock and found the diamond was fake. They verified the CCTV footage and found the man pocketing the diamond. The showroom lodged a complaint with the Cubbon Park Police on February 22.

The staff also checked CCTV footage from their other showrooms in the city and found that the accused had earlier visited Marathahalli and Kammanahalli showrooms asking for the solitaire diamond. Since the staff did not have the stock of the solitaire diamond, the accused left and this time struck at the M.G. Road showroom.

The Cubbon Park Police have registered a case and are analysing the CCTV footage of various showrooms to identify the "white bearded accused". Police suspect that the accused may have visited the showrooms earlier and seen the solitaire diamond, to help him create a look alike.

The police also suspect that the accused may have used some disguise on these trips.

INBRIEF

Book on land mafia to be released today

Sachidananda Nagara Nyayapara Andolana on Sunday is releasing a book titled "Bengalurina Bhoo Mafia Bhrashtacharada Chakravyuha" written by Dr. Shankara K. Prasad and Nethrakere Uday Shankar looking at land mafia in and around Bengaluru. The programme will be held on Global Academy of Technology premises, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, at 10.30 a.m.

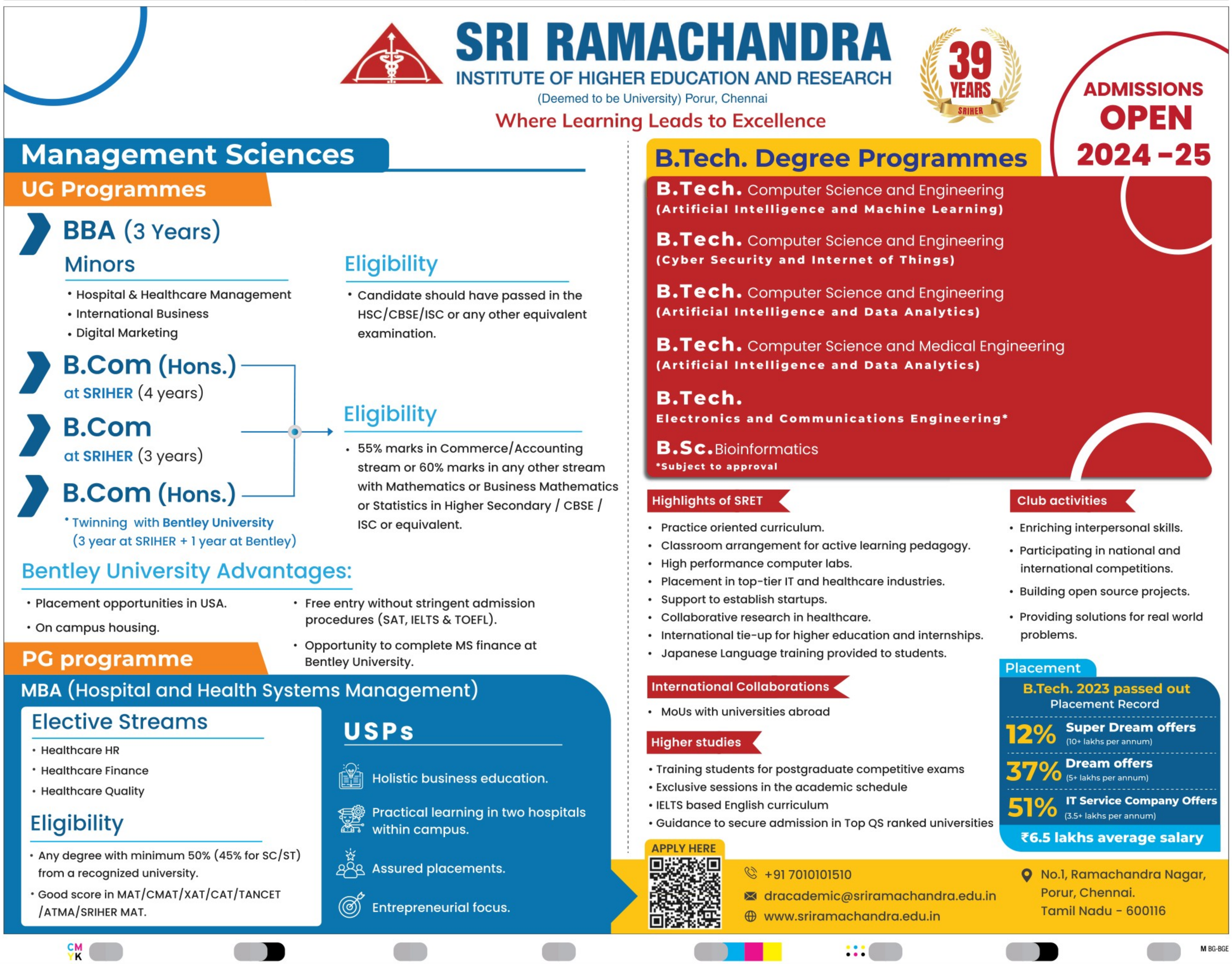
Yakshagana performance

Yakshagana Tapassangha will present Yakshagana performance - Bheeshma Vijaya written by Halasinahalli Narasimha Shastri on Sunday between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the Udayabhanu Kalasangha, near Gavi Gangadhareshwara temple, Gavipuram, Kempegowda Nagar, behind Ramakrishna Mutt. Entry is free.

Training programme held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accenture in association with Databricks on Friday launched their new joiner's training programme at RNS Institute of Technology.



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Classifieds

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THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BENGALI

WORKING WELL qualified Kayastha Bengali fair slim girl 31 Mumbai looking for a SM contact 8510877797

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED GROOM for MS NYU educated Newyork based lead data scientist H1B 162/95 from highly educated affluent family Father having business in Delhi Father Sikh and mother Tamil Brahmin Please Contact 9811120090

Brahmin Girl 34, Bharani, MS Aeronautic Eng-SG. Now Working in Senior Post in Dubai Aviation Co. Likes Music, Wildlife Photography. Family in Chennai. Seeks well Qualified Groom below 40. Email details to parvathy60@proton.me

DOCTOR

Dr. J.Ramya (Nadar) MBBS, M.S Ophthamology Vitreo Retina Surgeon Doctor from Same Caste Ct: 9840038499

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, 28/165cm, MBBS, M.D.,Own Clinic seeks suitable Doctor Groom. Ct: 9842170149

SC AD, 30 yrs, MBBS, Doctor, working in NHS, UK, Hastham, Kanni seeks groom preferably in UK. 9003017072

1984, MBBS (MD / MS.OBG) Hindu, Tamil, Chennai, CNB. Prefer Dr / Civil Service / Business : 9514518555

M.D. DOCTOR Hindu 30/F 175Cms, working as SR. AIIMS, seeks suitable groom (preference Doctor). Whatsapp the details to 9500333303

WANTED PG Doctor or well employed Sr. Executive for a PG Doctor-Surgeon DNB, Hindu Nair malayali girl 37yrs Ashwathy, well employed in a leading hospital in Kerala, Contact Whatsapp 8144140365

MUDALIYAR 26Y, Fair, MBBS (MS), Seeks Doctors or any suitable Groom, Chennai or any district. Ct: Catharin – 7824023030

GROOM WANTED
Reputed Reddy Family in Chennai Invites Alliance for Daughter 33/165, Doctor MBBS, MS, Looking for Tall Educated Groom from affluent family CNB.
Call: 89256 40111

Muslim Doctor Girl 29/158, MS, Pursuing Mch (Rep.Med.). Seeks Alliance from Doc (DM/Mch/MD/MS) Contact: 9815384288.

MALAYALAM

NAIR Girl, Fair, March 1993 B.Sc MBA working - MNC Chennai seeks suitable Educated, Well Settled, Nair Groom below 35years Ph: 94863 71389

MBA / CA / ICWA

PQM4 BTECH + MBA Manglik Rajput Girl, working MNC, 50 lakhs+ pkg, 5ft 6inch, 8–Oct–90, 7:39 AM, Delhi, 9899374419

36 Years CA Working in Hyd, 5'5" Telugu Vaidiki Brahmin Girl, Family settled in Hyderabad, Artistic, Gifted Sketcher Painter, Issueless Divorcee, No Encumbrances, seeks well Educated, well settled Groom Working in India from affectionate South Indian Veg Families. Reply to pmsvhyd@gmail.com

NRI

HINDU PILLAI 32/163 cm B.Tech. M.S. working in Ireland seeks suitable groom (CNB) 91 9443564798.

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN (AD) Bridegroom for Bride 31 years B.E (ECE), Preferably South Tamilnadu. Ct: 9443473523

TAMIL MUSLIM Bride, 29/159cm, AVP in a MNC at Bengaluru seeks qualified Tamil Muslim Groom working in Hyderabad or Bengaluru. Ct:9080501299

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl 37 B.E seeks professionally educated Tamil Muslim Groom(First Marriage only). 9444235779

GROOM WANTED, Pious RC Christian Girl (Caste no bar) 28/5ft 4inch B.Sc. (Biochemistry) DMLT Working, 9443784674, Whatsapp: 00447878127414, Email:msn2024@myyahoo.com

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

TAMIL

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, Catholic 30 yrs, HR–MNC in Chennai, girl separated shortly with null and void order looking for catholic boy below 33 yrs, premier institute or professional with null and void or unmarried with clean habits, WhatsApp: 6380390185

CSI NADAR, 28/172cm, B.TECH/ MS in Canada, 5 Lakhs per month. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9380791999

CHRISTIAN BE 35/164cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa seeks good looking groom working with SWE/Doctor in USA. CNB. CT: 81488 25673 Brokers Excuse

MARUTHUVAR, HINDU 29/162cm Very Fair Good Looking, M.com, CA Seeks well Qualified Groom Ct: 9600776871

VANNIER AFFLUENT 29/165 MBA, Er, Chicago USA, Chennai Native Seeks Suitable Groom USA, CNB. Ct: Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR AFFLUENT 33/160 BL Lawyer, Pooradam Chennai Seeks Suitable Mudaliar Groom Ct: Geetham 9884858014

NAIDU BRIDE SWE Seeking Never Married Tamil / Telugu groom Age (41–44) Working in Chennai or US. Ct: hemapriya.h@gmail.com, 9962805093

MUDALIAR AFFLUENT 34/160 MBBS Ms Mch Dr Chennai Seeks PG Doctors Chennai / Abroad CNB Geetham 9884858014

PILLAI 24/165CM Fair B.com/ LLB(Hons) Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom well Educated Family 9445125003

SC ADIDRAVIDA Divorced No Child Age 38 BE EEE Wkg in Chennai MNC.Well settled.Seeks Suit Groom. 9940347310

HINDU NADAR, 30/160cm, MBBS, MD, Salary–50,000. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999.

SAIVA PILLAI 32Yrs 165Cms Tiruvathirai B.Tech MBA MNC Seeks Qlfd Well Employed & Never Married Grooms 33–35Yrs Earning Rs 20Lacs PA & Above Ct: 9643003640 / 044–48041602

HINDU NADAR, Chennai, 30, M.Tech, Govt Officer, Good Salary. Seeking PG, Well Settled, Educated Family in Chennai, 9445055308

WELL SETTLED Naidu family invites groom for daughter 26/BHMS need Doctors alternate Medicine / Good Business / caste no bar. 98424 66655

HINDU NADAR 32/160 Cm/IT/9L P.A Star Revathy Seeks Nadar Boy below 35 in IT Field/Business. Ct:9790793177

ALLIANCE FOR Hindu AD, 33/174 Wheatish Bengaluru based Post Graduate, Senior Consultant, MNC Australia girl. CNB. Ct:9449000627

B.TECH (NIT) MBA(IIM) Tamil Girl 30/161 Product Consultant C/R/L No bar Sks suitable edu groom 8220468282

TELUGU BALIJA Naidu 27 yrs/155 cm Barani/Mesham, Completed Phd (Zoo) Feb 2024/Chennai Seeks Dr/Er from Balija naidu only Ct: 9486106465.

48/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI, M.com, MBA, Seeks Prof Qualified Unmarried Below 50, Clean habits, CNB Ct: 9444837355/ 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

YADAVA GIRL, age 26, B.E. Working in Software Company 9Lac/p.a. seeking Yadava groom. Ct: 9381382000

SEEKING EMPLOYED Groom below 36 years from Elite Family for Divorced 31 years Employed Bride BE & MBA Fair & Homely from SC AD Hindu Elite Family. Cast No Bar. 9483542477

DKV/PALLAN 27yrs B.E, well settled Fmly, Chennai. Father Sr.Engr Rly (R) Mother DGM- ONGC seeks Groom clean habits, same caste, Govt. Empld /PSU/Pvt. 8148949077 / 9445005474

HINDU, 45/170, B.E., Bharani, Chennai, MNC Employed, issueless, Divorcee Seeks Educated, Employed Groom from Good Family Background. Only Hindu Grooms with salary of Above 40k per month. Business not preferred. Ct:72007 57324

VADAMA KOUNDINYA Gothram age 25 5ft 7inch PhD seeking well educated US settled vegetarian nonsmoking teetotaler Iyer age 25 to 28 Email meera9sree@yahoo.com

TAMIL CHETTIAR Girl, 32/155, wheatish, US citizen, working Atlanta seeks Tamil boy 32–34 years working in US. Caste no bar. Ct: 9962956299.

VANNIAKULA KSHATRIYA Hindu Uthiradam 28/168, B.Tech, seeks well settled educated groom preferably in Pondicherry. Contact: 9443659440

PILLAI 25/167, Fair,Beautiful,MS,SWE,Virtus,USA,65000.USD.PA, Elite Fmily 50.Cr,CNB.9043987029,9043991629

MUDALIAR: 25/V.FAIR, B.E, MBA(IIM), Consultant, Capgemini, Chennai, 1300000PA, Well settled Family, Seeks groom– Job/Business– 9962530015

TAMIL

HINDU VANNIYAKULA, kshatriya, good looking girl, 33, MS(IIT_M) Ph.D (UK) Working as a Assistant Professor in a Central Institute, Bangalore, Seeks tall, Good Looking Handsome Groom with a Professional Masters / Ph.D from a Good Institution in India / Abroad, Working in a Good Position in Bangalore. Contact No: 94422 20103 / 94871 30103

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MS, 161cm Good Look, Working wellSettled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct:8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU NADAR (VNR) 28 MBA Chennai leading bank. Seeking groom Chennai/ Bangalore whapp: 9444498347

DIVORCEE CHETTIAR(CNB) 31/V.Fair, B.E,MS, Data Eng,UK, Elite Family, Seeks groom Abroad/India– 8925019776

ALLIANCE REQURIED for South Indian Brahmin Iyer girl 31 yrs & 24 yrs mrigashersham & chathayam stars viswamithra gothram employed in US remaining with parents in US exchange of horoscopes post to mani-an 5/3, justice sundaram road, mylapore, chennai – 600004

IYER, TAMIL bharatwajam, 29 years old, punarpoosam (1), BE. cse, software Engineer in Chennai, girls seeks suitable groom working in Chennai same sect. contact no 9443471837, 9443697371

Parents seek alliance for PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN, GOD FEARING, 1993 born / 168 Fair & Good Looking, DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD), AFFLUENT FAMILY, CHENNAI BORN & BROUGHT UP, FROM SUITABLY EDUCATED GROOM FROM GOOD FAMILY.
rachel_1993s@yahoo.com

GROOM WANTED
CHRISTIAN, 1992 born/ 5.6', Mother RC, Father - Converted Christian, MBA, Good Looking, Slim, Working in MNC, well settled family seeks suitable Groom
Ct: 9496873651/ 9895563651

HINDU SC AD 35yrs B.E Sr. Software Engineer TCS Chennai seeks suitable Groom. Ct: 99521 47216

HINDU NADAR girl age 29/Ht 167 cms, ME, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, Upper middle class seeks suitable groom. Ct: 96265 15511.

Iyer - Vadama, Bharadwaja gothram, 31Y, Fair complexion, 5ft, M.S.(IT), working in MNC(UK), Seeking Groom in the UK. Contact: +91 9080512589.

MUDAILIYAR GIRL. Doctor, super specialist.Born-April 1989, Fair seeks Doctor grooms MD /MS /super specialist /Civil Servants Ct: 96001 13946.

✔ Christian Believer Girl, 43 Yrs, Unmarried, Software Engineer, seeks, Unmarried Christian Boy. Contact: 7358663547

PILLAI / MUDALIAR, 34, MD, Well settled family seeks Groom aged 34 – 36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. Contact: 9345855735

SC HINDU Adidravida 28/156cm BE MNC 16L PA seeks suitable alliance from Govt, PSU, IT. Ct: 94441 55781

Tamil Yadhava, 32/160, Punarpusam Mithunam, BE (CS) SWE workg-MNC 2Lac P.M seeks suitable Professional groom. Ct: 97912 73303 /97909 93279

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU, 28/152cm, Fair, PG, MNC Chennai Ct: 6380984534/saanvigklr@gmail.com

SADHYAM KUMBHA 32/5.5ft B. E,Chennai Naidu good looking girl for remarriage(short lived) seeks groom India/ Abroad CNB 8056093838/ 9500009694

TELUGU KSHATRIYA Raju, 37yrs/ 5.5', Ph.D Food Tech. Asst. Professor at University seeks qualified Groom. CNB. Whatsapp : 8778160819

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, BE,MS, Elite business family.Seeks Suitable Groom Contact:9710093999/ 8939691888

KAMMA 40 M.Sc Psychology good looking affluent seeks well settled handsome qualified groom. Subsect no bar. 9444410207/ tvm1945@gmail.com

ALLIANCE REQUIRED for Telugu Balija Naidu Girl , 29,5'.6" / Hastam, Kanni , M.com, HDFC Bank, From Good Naidu Community Family. Ph 9382187203 / 9344934433

KAMMAVAR NAIDU, 21 yrs. Medical Student, Parents Doctors, US Citizen seeks groom, Ct: 76395 83538

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

DM DOCTOR Hindu–Tamil, Dec–91,185 cm, v.fair, clean habits, star–hastham, seeks a noble charactered, tall, v.fair, PG doctor / highly qualified bride (27–29 years) from educated vellala gounder, kamma, pillai, mudaliar or such families based in southern cities. Parents: 93425–29547 / 90721–18800

DIVORCEE

VIGNESH 31/ Vanniyar/ BE/ HCL/ 30L PA/Divorced 1 kid/Seeks educated bride/ CNB/ Chennai /9600714682

DOCTOR

SC/AD KRITHIKAI 28/168 (Tamil), MBBS, Captain Medical Officer, Indian Army, Kashmir, Seeks for bride working in Doctor Army Officer. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9486008423

GOWDA SARASWATH Brahmin boy, Anizham, 36/171, MBBS-MD, wish to receive suitable proposal through 9567537319

M.D (GENERAL Medicine) 2nd year, SC–Mala, 30Y, 5ft 8inch, doctor seeks suitable bride Whatsapp 9000803380

MALAYALAM

NAIR BOY, 32/ 180, Pooram Suddha Jathakam, MBA engaged as Deputy Manager in Family Business in Chennai Invited Proposals Nair Girls with Suddha Jathakam–Contact: 9841428004/ 9444625522

EZHAVA BOY 30, Group B, Central Govt Officer, BSI, Coimbatore / Salem. Uttrattathi, 2/9/1993; 10:25 PM. Ct: 9447582887

VISHWAKARMA (C), 33, 155cms, Punartham, MBA, Private Company Job in Coimbatore, Only son. Own house. Seeks Malayali Vishwakarma (C) bride. Contact 9442267579

RC Christian, Aged 30, MSW, Self Employed, expecting a well Educated Girl ContactL: 9443204211.

THIYA/ EZHAVA 29/170/ BE working in MNC software seeks bride from Chennai/ Bangalore/ Kerala. 9551500642

NRI

NAIDU 29/180CM, POORATATHI, BTech, MS, Working as Research Engr, PR of Sweden, Contact Father 9566682220

EliteMatrimony.com
Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite from Matrimony.com Group

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 29, 183 cms, Entrepreneur, BE in Engg. Lives in Chennai. Father is a CA. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN IYER, 29, 188 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in USA. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

SAIVA PILLAI, 33,178 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Parents are retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

PARVAKULAM, 36, 183 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Madurai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN, 27, 163 cms, Businessman, BE, MSC. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Looking for a like-minded and well educated match. Contact:6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRHAMIN IYER, 31, 170 cms, Employed, MBA. Lives in Germany. Father is a Finance Director. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

BRHAMIN IYENGAR, 37, 165 cms, Legal Advisor, LLB. Lives in Dubai. Father is a retired person. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 23, 168 cms, Employed, BE. Lives in Chennai. Parents are in Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 24, 168 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

VISHWAKARMA, 26, 157 cms, Entrepreneur, B.Arch. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact:6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 38/5'8, MBBS MD Paediatric Neonatologist, Fair, Divorce seeks good looking Doctor/ non Medico Bride Age: 30-34, Kerala/ Tamilnadu.Ct: 9443326119/ 8610020066

DM Doctor 34/173, Asst.Prof, Chennai, affluent RC Christian Family, seeks suitable Bride. C/R No bar. Contact: 8122083188.

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Chennai. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

HINDU NAIR 27/165cms BE CEO–Own Business, Upper Middle Class, Only son seeks suitable educated bride with good family background. Whatsapp BHP to 96555 77666 / 96555 88666.

TRIVANDRUM BASED Romancatholic Male 40/175 MSW Social Worker Canadian PR invite suitable alliance. 9349350333

TELUGU

✔ USA EMPLOYED Brahmin Girl (1984 born) seeking Unmarried Brahmin boy employed in USA. Ph:+918122804021

Balija Naidu Very Fair / 168cm / MBA goodlooking bride from well to do family seeks educated cultured business / employed handsome groom from affluent family. Subsect no bar. Contact: 9880715095

Kamma Naidu very fair Beautiful Girl age 25 BBA.LLB(Hons) 167 cm Star Ayilayam Kadagam 9962585430 Mail : chemauxp@gmail.com

WANTED BRIDE Groom of reddy, pokanati, modikallu yr of birth 1995-1996 good job at UK only. Cont 9866099827

URDU

Second Marriage Doctor Girl Smp Invite Alliance for their Daughter, 35 Years BDS. (Chennai) MDPH (Uk) Khula Taken (No Kids) Looking for an Educated & Well Settled Groom Call Wap: 9849331631 / 9490166601.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT Nadar Boy, 29/5.9", B.Tech, MBA, IT MNC, Chennai. Ct: 9445447952. jcp.94@yahoo.com

ALLIANCE INVITED for Tamil Muslim Dr. MD Pediatrician Groom Age: 30/ 180cm, Fair with Clean Habits, Annulled within 6 months. Well Settled affluent Family in Chennai. Seeks qualified brides unmarried or Divorced with no Children Ct: 63749 49036

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 35yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 27yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382266099

SEEKING CHRISTIAN bride for our only son, aged (29) years, Vellala Christian IT Manager 22 lacs p.a. Innocent divorcee, no children. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family. (Caste no bar). Contact 7603898525

RC CHRISTIAN, 41 yrs/170, B.E Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

Viswakarma 29Yrs M.Tech (IIIT) SWE Bangalore 40LPA seeks well educated employed bride from good family background,Caste no Bar. CT: 9444302810

✔ KONGU VELLALAR: Div. 45yr/172cm M.Tech MNC Employee. Bride preferably from same community.WA–9790589422

SOZHIYA VELLALAR Pillai 27/167 BE/ MBA IT MNC 12L/pa Bharani Mesham seeks bride middle class. 9941411251

HINDU KULALA 25/178cm B.E SWE Ayilyam well educated, settled family in Coimbatore.Send BHP.Ct:9940967767

36/178, MUTHURAJA/MUDALIYAR groom, BE, PSU 22LPA Visakhapatnam, hometown Chennai. 9442989981/ vaish.nand@gmail.com, Caste no bar.

PILLAI 34/175 Uthiram BE, Software Professional @ Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride Ct 9840299986 / 8903293576

TAMIL

PILLAI (Sozhiya Vellalar), 37Yrs / 5.8" / Swathi / B.E., Employed and Upper middle class family seeks suitable Alliance (Caste No Bar). Contact: 98432-52888.

MUDALIAR P.PRABHU 29/165 DOB–14.12.1993 Tanusu Rasi Moolam Natchathiram BE, MBA Works in Secretariat as Technical Asst INPR Dept Salary 40K Seeks Bride below 25yrs Subset No Bar Ct: 9445267119 / 9940481579/ 9790758494

MUDALIAR / PILLAI, DOB:29.05.93/ 183cm, BE,MS (USA) N.Veg, Working in USA, Seeks suitable bride(25–28yr) Studying/Working in USA, Caste no bar Mother:9003713942

AGE 36 Handsome, Well Settled Business man, Comfortable Groom needs first Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce. Contact: 9597834451

AGAMUDAIYAR 39 MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9444865135

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227/ 9498328263

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs/ 180cm, BE MBA, 33 LPA in MNC, Chennai, Well Educated Affluent Family, Seeking Well Educated Employed Bride From a Similar Family Background. Ct: 9841054900

TAMIL

MUDALIYAR CHITHIRAI BE Chennai 1985 Fair 1st Marriage Bride Wanted Emp/UnEmployed .9952010118/ 8610518808

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, 42, Mirugasiridam, PhD, TN Govt Job. Rs 1.28L P/M. No Broker Divorced: 7904550883

PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

MUDALIYAR 52/170 B.Com Sales Manager unmarried 40k seeks bride. Religion no bar. Mobile: 93602 97552

GRAMANI/NADAR Swathi 27/172 ME 9L pa, Works in Chennai, seeks well educated, employed Gramani/Nadar bride. Good family. Cont:9965377922

VANNIYAR 32 yrs/ 175cm/ BE/ Working in Chennai. Little bent in fingers. Deg/ Dip / 12th/ 10th. 6300967708

MUDALIAR, NOV 1991, 172 cm, PhD (IIT Madras), MS B.Tech, PDF(UK), fair, Now in Chennai, suitable brides contact 6383051148(w) Caste no bar.

46YRS, PG, Building Ind, Normal look, bachelor, kind person, Properties, cast religion no bar. Whatsapp 9345032889

INTERCASTE FATHER Devendra Kula Vellalar, Mother Brahmin, Son Born Oct 1996, fair, height 5.6 ft, good looking , B.E., working in Autonomous organization, Min of Finance in Mumbai 24 lacs pa, looking for decent educated working girl pref Government. Caste no bar. Contact 9444589256 / 8825538874

SUITABLE MATCH for B.Tech (IIT) working in Central Govt as Group A Gazetted Officer, Mumbai, 30 yrs, 6ft 1inch, Language/Caste No Bar. Contact:+91 9453045661.

SEEKING SIMPLE, Clean Habits, Vegetarian Bride for our Son MS(CS) USA,29yrs/178cms,Iyer,Vegetarian, No smoking, No drinking. Financial Status of the Bride does not matter.Ct.WhatsApp:+1 732 372 8410

TAMIL

HINDU / Devendra Kula Vellalar (Pallan) 28M / 175CM / B.E, PGDM / Working in Bangalore / 11L PA seeks Employed Tamil Bride Phone 9840356343 / 9444450238

HINDU NADAR 40/170 B.Tech MS Working Canada First Marriage Seeks Working Bride Caste No Bar. 9840535866.

VANIA CHETTIAR Unmarried 48/172 MBA Ph.D. Hastham, Vegetarian, Associate Professor in Private College, Housing Properties in Chennai Wanted 37 – 43Yrs Bride Ct : 9444958332.

34, AYILYAM, Hindu, ICWAI,MBA(IIM) , Manager, SC, Seeks Ragu Kethu Bride, Chennai,caste no bar: 9677266232

MUDHALIAR AFFLUENT 25 / 182 cm BE Builder Chennai seeks Mud /Pillai Bride Geetham 9884858014

GOWDA RICH 172cm Advocate Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride CNB Ct : Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR, AGE 44, Chennai Divorcee, Star Cancer Poosam, Children: two boys Age. 12 and 13 Second Marriage is required for Nadar ethnic brides, No caste barrier, no expectations. Avoid brokers Ct: 9840075677

HINDU NADAR, 27/172, BE, 300000/ per month. Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

VANNIYAR (PADAYATCHI) 26/170/ MS/ Employed Banking Sector in Canada (Toronto) Seeks Fair Looking Bride B.E./Other Equal Academic Qualification from Decent Family :9840087405 (Chennai) Mail:aarthzzz3107@gmail.com

HINDU /AD / 31/ MS–IT Boy Software Australia. Seeks Suitable Alliance. Ct: 9884229468

TAMIL VISWAKARAMA (veg) Prof(Dr) Umashankar.S 1979/165 Uttaradam seeks suitable Bride. Contact 9480611093/7349544114

VANNIYAR S.PRAVEEN Kumar 12.4.93 BE, Pvt Star: Moolam. Sal 96000/–ch–77. Seeks Educated Bride 8610711668

WANTED SUITABLE Viswakarma Bride for elder Engineering degree groom aged 29 years, working in abroad getting one lakh per month. Magara Rasi, Thiruvonam star, Wheatish Colour, 5.5 feet height, Orthodox Father is Civil Engineer, Mother is house wife living in own House in Madurai Jurisdiction. Arts Degree or +2 is enough. The only younger daughter is also a IT degree holder working in MNC in Chennai. Ct: 98421 83080/ 90955 72220

TAMIL IYER, Bharatwajam, Pooram 3, age 42, CA, CWA, CS, CMA, CPA, working in CANADA, drawing CAD 10000/–pm, first marriage, looking for suitable graduate girl below 32, send email with horoscope and photo to braman1951@yahoo.co.in/ 9940025365

MUDALIAR 31/168 Kettai BE Mech Coimbatore seeks suitable Bride. CT: 95977-72439, 84892-72439.

HINDU– BE/32/ Affluent Family/ Ayillam– Katagam/ Bangalore settled. Father belongs to SC. Seeking Bride from same/other community. Contact No: 9845401461.

SENGUNDHAR ANUSHAM 39yrs B.Tech, SWE, Own Business Income 12L to15L per year, Own house & property more than 3.5Cr, seeks suitable bride. Ct: 9442215638 / 9790410387

MUDALIAR 30/180, H.some,BE,Sr. SWE,Walmart GTech,6000000.PA.Elite Family 50.Cr, CNB. 9043987029, 9043991629

1992, 185CM /P.hd, Rs.62,000/pm. Mesham Bharani, Well Settled Groom. Need Good Looking and Educated Bride in Chennai. Cast No Bar. 9789847577

DIVORCEE CHETTIAR (CNB) : 44/ Handsome,B.E, Business, Madurai, Very Rich Family Seeks bride Any degree.Ct: 8939012419

AGE 38 Handsome, Comfortable Groom needs VIP Girl and first Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce. Ct: 7401489892

HINDU MUDALIAR 39 / 159cm MBA, MNC, Sal 70K PM Propertied Seeks suitable Bride from Elite Family. Send BPH to 9176084396 / 9176229082

HINDU MARUTHUVAR, B.E., MBA (PGP) boy of 28 years, (Kiruthigai, Rishabam), working as Project Manager in a Analytical Company in Chennai with pay of Rs.22 lakhs p.a, seeks suitable girl from same community. Call / WhatsApp No. 8056129502

BRAHMIN 54, Seeks below 53 Years Brahmin Bride. Widowed, Divorcee and Unmarried also Ok. Ct: 9384586456

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iyer 35yrs male, weighing machine business in Namakkal.Seeks bride in same community. Divorcee/widower also ok.9738233431

BRAHMIN/ IYER 36yrs Project Mngr MNC @ Ch 14L P/A Seeks Bride from Same Community. 8122264231/ 9500980411

SAIVA PILLAI, 36, Rohini, IT, 35K pm, Madurai, Own House, Caste no Bar. Ct: 8056588515

TAMIL

IYER, HASTHAM, 36, BE, ME, MBA, PhD Asst. Prof. Bangalore 12.5L PA, Seeks Any Brahmin girl. Whatsapp: 9092501181 jsshyammohan@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 32, Central Govt Officer, Using hearing aid, wanted educated Brahmin/Veg girl 9531900983

BRAHMIN IYER working in Mumbai ,38 yr old divorcee, well earning, IIT IIM educated, seeks Brahmin South Indian bride without issues. Contact: 9840853946 / 9176145760

Bride Wanted Hindu
Doctor (Paediatrician), Divorcee, 47/180 cm, Mudaliar, currently working in Singapore, seeks suitable alliance. Caste No bar.
drakpchennai@gmail.com
Ct: 9445 811165

BRIDE WANTED
Affluent Business family from Coimbatore looking for Good looking and well qualified bride from a respectable Tamil speaking Chettiyar, Pillai, Mudaliar family for their US Ivy League educated Son.
CALL : 98422 21701

SCAD 30 ME 10LPA Pvt. seeks Chennai based Prof. Qualified Working Bride Contact: 9444445875.

Hindu Adidravida 34yrs B.E, Wipro Chennai. 1Lakh Pm. Divorcee seeks bride. Ct: 94984 84674 / 84283 02001.

CHRISTIAN, 49yrs, B.Com. Govt. Job Divorcee, Chennai, Seeks Bride.Caste No Bar.Ct: 8825897792 / 99406 71540

SAIVA PILLAI CNB M.Sc MBA 4Lakh/ Monthly Company owner 20 Crores Property only Son 173cm Visagam 46yrs unmarried. W.app- 98415 53677

Pillai Age 29yrs/6ft Ayush Doctor own Pharmaceutical, Veg / Non Veg seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 95979 01403

Iyer Vadamal Badharayana Gothram Pooradam, 34/177cm, PG(Commerce) Wkg-Chennai as Exe. Indo-Japan Co., seeks suitable bride. Ct: 98843 13617

SM4 Iyer Athreya Magam 29 MS Engr(H1b) in US.Contact: 9444475275

Saiva Pillai 28/180 Ahmedabad well Educated, Employed Elite Groom Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: Email: tvnmas1993@gmail.com

TELUGU

BRIDE WANTED Elite Reddiyar, 33yrs, B.Tech,MS(US),Well Educated family in Chennai. 9710093999/ 8939691888

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub SectsNo Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

TELUGU

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu 32yrs, MBA, Divorce, Own Textile Business, Elite Family Ct:9710093999/ 8939691888

BRIDES WANTED Telugu Kamma, 38/ 5'11", B.Tech, M.S, MBA, US ctzn technocrat fly, Hyd, Tamil/ Telugu Bride to settle in US. CNB Ct: 8977021642

KAMMA 43 BE/MBA business with Public Sector handsome affluent seeks good looking qualified bride. Sect nobar. 9444410207/ tvm1945@gmail.com

KAMMA NAIDU, BCom,ACA,ACS,30/ 180Cm, Fair,Star Thiruvathirai, Rasi Mudhunam, well to do family, partner in a mid size firm of Chartered Accountants along with his father at Chennai. Seeks Bride from Kamma Naidu family. Ct. 9840786456

BALIJA NAIDU, 1985/180cms, KRITHIGAI, Fair, MCA, IT Mgr. in Dubai. Seeks suitable bride from a decent family, sub caste no bar, with BHP ct: 9840633177/umarani0456@gmail.com

BALIJA 32/175 MBA only son Defence background affluent seeks any Naidu employed bride. Ph: 9789009187

BALIJA NAIDU Groom, Aged 29, B.E – Employed in Bangalore. Looking for Employed Bride in Bangalore From Naidu Community. Contact: 8807291710

BALIJA NAIDU
Chennai based Cultured family looking alliance for their Son Age 27/190 cms. MS from IIT Madras, currently working in MNC at Surat, seeking Cultured family from Telugu Community, well natured, home loving & professionally qualified bride. Subsects no bar
9750930600

BRIDE WANTED
Well settled business family Bangalore (Ganiga) only Son 31year BE, MS looking Affluent Family Girl BE, MS, M.Tech, MBA Cast No Bar
WhatsApp: 9686407367

SC Mala Hindu-BE-MBA-27 Years-5'6"-Software - ENGG(Bengaluru)/60K per month well settled Family seeking suitable Bride. Contact: 9442161968.

URDU

SEEK 40+ Widow/Divorcee Urdu Childless for Saudi Settled 57yr Widower wth3kids 9841078666 Brother Chennai

SMU 35YRS/ 170cm, Never Married, B.E., M.B.A. Well employed, Upper Middle Class Family looking for a religious bride Chennai Ct: 99411 90435

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

NADAR MATRIMONY Tambaram 7299556592 9551616103

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8098802444

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Well established and running Scan Centre with brand new siemens 32 slice CT, US, CR System and Oxygen Plant. 17,000 Sq. Ft., area with 8,000 Sq. Ft., construction facility to start
50/100 Bedded Hospital in PALAMANER TOWN, CHITTOOR DISTRICT, A.P. Near to Bangalore.
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9440867440

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BUILDING SOLUTIONS: Waterproofing Roof, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, Swimming pool, Heat resistant coating, House painting. Call: 9448572697

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60x40 East facing Independent House at prime location for Sale 45 squares building, Ground, 1st & 2nd Floor with 5 Bedrooms with attached bathroom, built with Teak Wood, Italian Marble Tiles, at BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore. Clear Titles & 'A' Katha. Rs.6 Crores, (negotiable). Party going out of station, Immediate Registration.
CONTACT:
98457 65559
98450 43282

Pension Adalat on March 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Office of the Controller of Communication Accounts (CCA), Karnataka Telecom Circle, will hold the 35th Pension Adalat for Telecom / BSNL pensioners on March 21, 2024.

Cases involving legal / succession issues and policy matters will not be entertained, the release said.

Time and venue of the Adalat will be intimated directly to each applicant in due course.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, FEB. 25		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:28
RISE	19:13	SET 07:08
MONDAY, FEB. 26		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	19:58	SET 07:42
TUESDAY, FEB. 27		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	20:42	SET 08:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	33	20
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will remain pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Gandhi would have opposed Ram temple built over demolished mosque, says activist

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Activist Medha Patkar chairing the session on 'Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Citizenship'.

At a time when India's constitutional morality and founding ideas are being threatened, the citizens need to rely more and more on the Constitution and its values, said activists and scholars on the first day of the two-day Constitution and National Unity Convention being organised by the State government.

Harsh Mander, activist and author, said India is passing through a moment of "profound civilisational crisis". Reminding that Mahatma Gandhi's last fast was against the takeover of Muslim shrines by Hindus, he said Gandhiji would not have been in favour of the Ram temple in Ayodhya today.

Focus on fraternity

He said when the Constitution was being drafted the people of India had promised themselves to build a country where every citizen is equal and that is the country we are losing every day with very little protest.

"The true soul of a country lies in fraternity," he said quoting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Citing the incident of a Muslim youth beaten to death in the suburbs of Delhi during Ganesh Puja last year, he pointed out that it happened in a densely populated locality and nobody came to the man's aid.

Exhorting people to assert their right to equity, activist Medha Patkar, who chaired the session on "Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Citizenship", called for a change in the current taxation policies and demanded that the richest should be compelled to pay wealth tax and inheritance tax.

Wealth tax

"If even 1% of the richest are compelled to pay 2% wealth tax, more than ₹7 to ₹8 lakh crores will come to the state exchequer ... How can this not be attempted and inserted into the economic action plan is our question," she said.

Ms. Patkar, who spearheaded the Narmada Bachao Andolan which resisted the construction of dams across the Narmada River, said that the central government, through amendments to the Forest Conservation Act, is ready to "hand over natural resources and forest lands to corporates" without even consulting with the Gramasabhas. Ms. Patkar also spoke about the water crisis in Bengaluru and wondered whether there were no solutions to the problem other than relying on the pumping of water from the Cauvery River from several hundred kilometers away.

Rely on Constitution

Gopal Guru, editor at *Economic and Political Weekly*, noted that the closer one gets to their past, ethnicity and majoritarianism, the further one goes away from the rule of law and the principles of the Constitution.

"Prejudices, casteism, patriarchy and communalism of the majoritarian kind arise when you get closer to parochialism instead of constitutionality," he said.

Mr. Guru noted that it is the moral and ethical duty of the government to take constitutional ideals to the people and if the government is not doing it then the judiciary has to monitor it and tame monstrous majoritarianism.

Bring to power those who respect the Constitution: CM

'It is the duty of every government to successfully and respectfully follow the Articles of the Constitution of India, instead of altering it'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, retired Supreme Court judge V. Gopala Gowda, retired High Court judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, and Minister Priyank Kharge during the Constitution and National Unity Convention organised by the Social Welfare Department in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday urged people "not to tolerate defamation against the Constitution" and bring to power "those who respect the Constitution."

Speaking after inaugurating the two-day Constitution and National Unity Conference organised by the Social Welfare Department to commemorate 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution of India, he said, "It is the responsibility of every government to eradicate inequality in the country. Dr. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Constitution, understood what was needed for this country."

Democracy

The Chief Minister said that a political democracy can succeed only when it rests on the foundations of social democracy. "It is the duty of every government to successfully and respectfully follow the Articles of the Constitution of India, instead of altering it," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also released a special cover commemorating 75 years of the Constitution being adopted. Basavaraj Horatti, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, led the audience in the reading of the Preamble at the event. On the same occasion, the Chief Minister distributed prizes and mementos to Tumkur, Davangere, Mysore, Kodagu, and Bellary districts for organising the best activities.

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa said that over the last month, the State government had organised several initiatives aimed at increasing citizens' awareness of the constitution, including jatha in all the districts from January 26 to February 23, with 1,025 special events, covering 5,600 Gram Panchayats.

The event concludes on Sunday at Palace Grounds with a set of sessions on various themes around the Constitution.

Pillion rider killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 40-year-old pillion rider was killed and his friend riding the scooter was injured when a private bus ran over them on Outer Ring Road near Nagarabhavi on Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Murali.

सेन्ट्रल माइन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाइन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
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Drought-hit areca growers buy water to save their plantations

On an average, a farmer will have to spend ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh per acre of areca up to April this year, say growers

DROUGHT DISTRESS

Sathish G.T.
CHEERANAHALLI (CHIKKAMAGALURU DISTRICT)

An areca grower at Cheeranahalli in Ajjampura taluk buying water from a tanker for his plantation. SATHISH G.T.

Deficient rainfall during the south-west monsoon in 2023 has left areca growers in parts of Malnad region hard and dry. Worried about safeguarding their plantations through summer, many are purchasing water on a daily basis and carrying it using private tankers, as hundreds of borewells have dried up in parts of the region known for its lush green environs and heavy rainfall.

The State government declared both taluks of Chikkamagaluru - Ajjampura and Kadur - as severely drought-hit on September 13 last year, after taking the ground reports. The people in the taluks recall that they are facing a drought of this magnitude for the first time since 2013. With no alternative remedy, the growers are spending huge money to keep the decade-old plantations alive.

Kiran, a former member of Cheeranahalli gram panchayat in Ajjampur taluk, owns about four-and-a-half acres of areca plantations. After the borewells drilled in the plantation dried, he has made arrangements to bring water from two borewells located a few kilometres away from his farm. He has hired three tankers to carry water daily. "Safeguarding the plantation is crucial for us now. If we neglect, we will lose the plantation that we have cultivated for over 30 years," Mr. Kiran said.

Areca is a major plantation crop in several parts of Malnad districts. With sufficient water, the growers can get up to seven quintals of arecanuts per acre. "Areca growers have to work hard and invest money regularly for years to get the yield from the plantations. During drought, we have to spend lakhs of rupees to lay fresh pipelines and carry water regularly from available sources," said Praveena, also a grower.

Those people with borewells in good condition are now selling water, with a tanker of water (20,000-litre) costing ₹8,000. "On an average, a farmer will have to spend ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh per acre of areca up to April this year. We are hoping for rain by the end of April. If there are no rains in April and May, we have to spend another two-three lakhs of rupees up till June, the month when monsoons are expected to set in," said Chetan, an areca grower.

Coconut farms too

Similarly, coconut growers are also facing the heat of drought in the region. The yield has already come down on many farms due to disease that affects coconut leaves. Paramesh of Yagatipura in Kadur taluk said of the 150 coconut trees on his farm, only 40 have survived. "The yield has come down abysmally. I am worried about a further decrease in the yield due to drought. My borewell in the coconut field has dried up," said a distraught Paramesh. He is now relying on an eatery that he runs along with his wife for his livelihood.

CM and DKS say BJP 'misleading public' on Endowment Bill

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah says the amendments were proposed in an effort to strengthen smaller Hindu temples and not as interpreted by the BJP leaders

The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders are "misleading the public" on the issue of proposed amendments to the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, said both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The latter said that the Bill would eventually be passed.

Speaking to presspersons at Banavara in Arsikere taluk on Saturday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the amendments were proposed with the interest of strengthening smaller Hindu temples.

"The amount collected from the temples with good revenue will be utilised only for Hindu temples. It will not be used for temples of any other religion. However, the BJP defeated the amendment bill in the council because they enjoyed a majority there," the Chief Minister said.

Joshi's allegations

Reacting to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's allegation that the government was "looting Hindu temples' revenue", Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the people, in fact, had rejected the BJP government because they were looting the public.

"The people have made them sit in the Opposition because of their corruption," he said.

'Will get Bill passed'

Mr. Shivakumar, speaking on the sidelines of an event in Shivamogga, criticised the BJP for defeating the Bill in the Legislative Council.

"The amendments were proposed with the intention of helping the priests of small temples whose revenue was low," he said.

However, he added that the government would ensure the Bill was passed when Congress increased its strength in the Council. "We will pass the bill and utilize the money for the welfare of Hindu priests," Mr. Shivakumar said.

The background

In a setback to the Congress government, the Legislative Council on Friday rejected amendments to the Act that sought to provide social security measures to over 40,000 archakas of Muzrai temples in the State, among other things.

The Opposition took exception to the proposal to take 10% of the gross income of 87 temples with annual income of over ₹ 1 crore and 5% of gross income from 311 temples with income of over ₹ 10 lakh being put into a Common Pool Fund, administered by Rajya Dharmika Parishath.

The quantum drawn to common pool was lesser earlier. Money thus collected was proposed to be used for archakas welfare and upkeep of over 34,000 'C' category temples whose annual income is less than ₹ 5 lakh.

Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy had issued clarification on the proposed Bill after the BJP "misinterpreted" the proposals and tried to give a "communal angle."

'Display Constitution Preamble in private firms'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dinesh Guli Gowda, Congress MLC, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa and urged them to take steps towards displaying the Preamble of the Indian Constitution at offices of universities, first grade colleges, all public sector units and IT/BT companies in the State, for creating awareness among employees about their Constitutional responsibilities.

The State government has made it mandatory for schools to read the Preamble of the Constitution every day to make schoolchildren aware of the ideals and principles of the Constitution.

Wipro awards schools for best practices in sustainability

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based tech firm Wipro Limited recognised colleges and schools for their best practices in sustainability at its Wipro Earthian Awards ceremony held on Saturday.

The award was constituted to foster integrated sustainability education and acknowledge Indian schools and colleges that actively promote sustainable action and thinking, said Wipro. The 2023 edition of the Wipro earthian school programme received over 1,200 project submissions, of which 22 winning and 18 shortlisted entries were selected by an independent jury. The teams from the winning schools demonstrated a deep understanding of biodiversity, waste, and water.

Varale hails from a family in Nippani that had close links with Ambedkar

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Prasanna B. Varale (left), judge of the Supreme Court, and P.S. Dinesh Kumar (right), who on Saturday retired as Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, were felicitated by the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Justice Prasanna Bhalachandra Varale, when invited to speak at an event to felicitate five judges who were past students of Raja Lakhamagouda Law College in Belagavi last August, spoke of how those considered "untouchables" had got an opportunity to join the mainstream due to the provisions of the Constitution. He described B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, as a "Prajna Surya", the radiant sun of intellectualism.

"It is because of him that people like us who were denied a dignified life have become human beings with equal opportunities,'' said Justice Varale, who was born in Nippani in Belagavi district. He was felicitated by The Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, on Saturday, on his recent elevation as the judge of the Supreme Court.

Back in 1934

Senior advocates in his home district Belagavi say that Justice Varale comes from a family with deep links with Dr. Ambedkar. His grandfather had accompanied Dr. Ambedkar during his visit to Chikkodi and Nippani when he arrived to fight a case in 1934.

Dr. Ambedkar influenced Justice Varale's family in many ways. He persuaded his father Bhalachandra Varale to study law, who become a judge and went on to serve as the registrar of the Bombay High Court. Before that, Dr. Ambedkar had appointed Justice Varale's grandfather Balwant Hanumanth Varale as the superintendent of Milind college that he had founded in Aurangabad.

Balwant Varale accompanied Dr. Ambedkar's wife Ramabai to Dharwad where she sought treatment and rest. Balwant Varale later became a member of the Mumbai representative assembly as a member of the Independent Labour party, founded by Dr. Ambedkar. Balwant Varale's younger daughter was among those who read out the vow of Buddhism during the mass conversion in Nagpur.

Justice Varale was born in Nippani in Belagavi district in 1962. He studied in various places in Maharashtra where his father was posted.

He joined Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Maratha University to get his law degree. He practised as an advocate in Mumbai for several years.

Career in Maharashtra

He was a junior of S.N. Loya, an eminent lawyer of civil and criminal law in Mumbai. Justice Varale also taught law in Ambedkar law college in Aurangabad for a few years. He served as a public prosecutor in Maharashtra and additional standing counsel for the Union government. He was appointed as a judge of the Bombay High Court in 2008 and served as Chief Justice of Karnataka until his elevation to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court now has three Dalit judges. Justice Varale is the second senior-most Dalit judge there. "It is a matter of inspiration for young lawyers from deprived communities,'' said young lawyer Vijay Kumar Budri from Belagavi.

Centre grants permission to procure 7,000 tonnes of ball copra following State's appeal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the State government's appeal, the Centre has granted permission to procure 7,000 tonnes of ball copra at minimum support price, said Minister for Agricultural Marketing and Sugar Shivananda Patil.

Speaking at a press conference here on Saturday, the Minister said the Centre would also be urged to grant permission to procure milling copra from growers. Earlier, the Union government had given approval for the procurement of 62,500 tonnes of copra.

Demand

The State has urged the Centre to grant permission to procure copra from growers following a demand from legislators from 14 coconut growing districts during the ongoing legislature session as well as from growers to open centers to procure copra for a few more days.

The Centre has fixed MSP for milling copra at ₹11,160 per quintal and for ball copra at ₹12,000 per quintal for the 2024 season. Milling copra is used to extract oil, while ball copra is consumed as dry fruit and used for religious purposes. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are major producers of milling copra while ball copra is used largely in Karnataka.

The registration for copra procurement that began on February 5, 2024 ended within three days, even though a large number of coconut growers had not registered their names. This led to protests by farmers in coconut growing districts. Moreover, legislators have alleged that the officers of NAFED joined hands with a few merchants and ended the registration process abruptly. MLAs also alleged that many merchants registered in the name of farmers.

Mr. Patil said six procurement centres would be opened and steps would be taken for prevention of misuse of the facility.

On APMC Bill

The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, has been passed in the Legislative Council on Friday and it is being implemented for the benefit of farmers and traders. Earlier, the Bill was referred to the select committee of the Council and committee members visited various districts and suggested 27 points and all of them have been included in the Bill, he said. The Opposition BJP and JD(S) supported the Bill.

Mr. Patil said the department was planning to reduce APMC cess for the benefit of farmers and revenue would be generated by trading more commodities. More than 70% of farm goods are being traded outside the APMC premises. The reduction of cess would also aim to encourage farmers to bring their produce to APMC yards, he added.

Indira Canteens

The Minister said Indira Canteens would be opened at Agricultural Produce and Marketing Committee (APMC) yards across the State. Already, canters have been opened in Ballari and Mysuru APMC yards.

Trains to be regulated and diverted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Owing to doubling works at Nimblak, Vilas, Vamburi stations, some trains will be regulated and diverted, said South Western Railways.

According to a SWR release, Train No. 12628 New Delhi-KSR Bengaluru Express will be regulated for 30 minutes over Central Railway jurisdiction.

Train No. 16515 Yesvantpur-Karwar Express, the journey of which will commence from Yesvantpur on February 28, will also be regulated for 90 minutes between Mangaluru junction and Mulki section due to safety related works at Nandikur station.

The following trains will be diverted: Train No. 12627 KSR Bengaluru-New Delhi Express will be diverted to run via Daund, Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Panvel, Kalyan, Igatpuri and Manmad station between February 26 and February 28. Similarly, Train No. 12780 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Vasco Da Gama Express, starting from Hazrat Nizamuddin on February 26 and 28, will be diverted to run via Manmad, Igatpuri, Kalyan Panvel, Karjat, Lonavala and Pune stations.

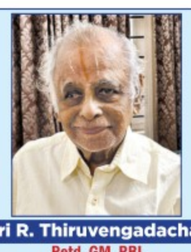
Train No. 22685 Yesvantpur-Chandigarh Express will be diverted to run via Miraj, Pune, Lonavala, Kalyan and Manmad stations on February 28, the release stated.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
E-mail id - sephsbp@yahoo.in; sephsbp@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No.ACEPHSBP-10/2023-24 Dt. 21.02.2024

1.	Number of work	: 01 no
2.	Type of Bid	: Two Bid system
3.	Estimated Cost	: Rs. 104.13 lakh
4.	Period of completion	: 6(Six) Calender Months
5.	Class of Contractor	: 'B' & 'A' Class
6.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 Hrs of dt 26.02.2024 to 17.00 Hrs of 06.03.2024
7.	Last date / time of seeking clarification	: 17.00 Hrs of 02.03.2024
8.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 17.00 Hrs of 06.03.2024
9.	Date & time of opening of Techincial Bids	: At 11.30 Hrs of 07.03.2024
10.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer, PH Circle, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, near Stadium, At/Po-Motijharan, Dist- Sambalpur-768001

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"
Additional Chief Engineer, PH Circle, Sambalpur
C-3217
OIPR-13018/11/0006/2324

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH



Shri R. Thiruvengadachary
Retd. GM, RBI
Attained Aacharyan Thiruvadi on 24.02.2024.
Deeply mourned by
wife Jayalakshmi, T Sridhar (Son), Radha Raghunathan (daughter) & Family Members.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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TDP-JSP alliance releases first list of candidates in A.P.

While the TDP has announced names of 94 contestants, the JSP has given names for only five of the 24 seats; Naidu says TDP-JSP alliance is a historic necessity to bring curtains down on YSRCP

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its alliance partner, the Jana Sena Party (JSP), on Saturday announced the first list of 118 candidates. While the TDP announced the names of contestants for 94 Assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, the JSP has so far announced names for only five of the 24 constituencies it would contest. The TDP renominated 13 of its 22 incumbent MLAs.

TDP national president and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu would be contesting from Kuppam, while his son and former MLC Nara Lokesh from Mangalagiri, where he had lost to the YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) Alla Ramakrishna Reddy in 2019. The JSP would field its candidates in three Lok Sabha constituencies too.

All set: TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and JSP president Pawan Kalyan releasing the first list of candidates on Saturday. G.N. RAO

Releasing the list of his party candidates, Mr. Naidu said that the TDP-JSP alliance was a historic necessity to bring curtains down on the YSRCP's "dictatorial regime," and that an elaborate exercise had been done by the TDP to select the candidates.

The party accorded priority to youngsters and educated individuals, and gave due representation to the Backward Classes, Mr. Naidu said.

JSP chief Pawan Kalyan said he was under pressure to seek more seats.

"I am against experimenting. I am keen on contesting only in those seats where I expect a 'strike rate' of 98%. I have settled for 24 seats keeping in view the likelihood of the BJP joining the alliance," he said.

Electoral outcomes contradict portrayal of LDF in media

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

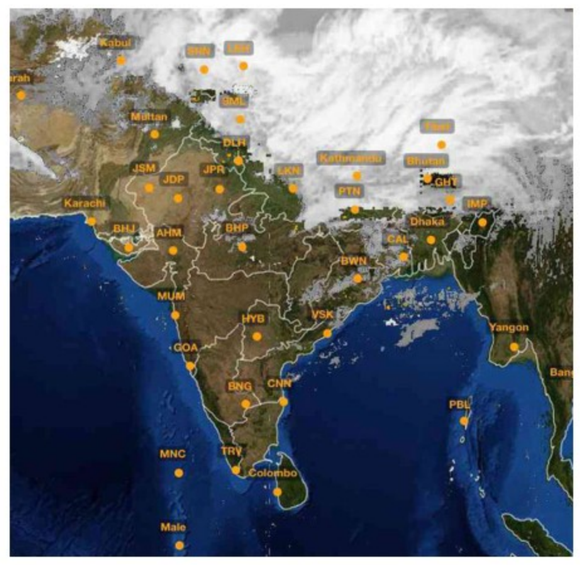
Drawing strength from the considerable gains made by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the recent local body byelections, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that the electoral outcomes contradicted negative portrayals of the ruling front in the mainstream media. Speaking at a face-to-face programme on tribal and Dalit issues organised in continuation of the 'Navakerala Sadas' programme in Kannur on Saturday, he expressed doubts whether journalists truly grasped the sentiments of the general public and criticised media managements of pressurising journalists to write negatively about the government.

Pinarayi Vijayan

Mr. Vijayan reiterated the government's pledge to provide land and housing to all landless and homeless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, and tribal families by 2025. He announced the completion of over 1,40,000 houses and distribution of land to thousands of families under various schemes.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty winds likely at isolated places over east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Chhattisgarh and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	15.7	Kozhikode	—	35.8	24.9
Ahmedabad	—	30.5	12.1	Kurnool	—	37.2	25.1
Aizawl	14	26.6	15.7	Lucknow	—	25.7	10.3
Allahabad	—	27.1	11.8	Madurai	—	35.7	25.1
Bengaluru	—	32.5	21.6	Mangaluru	—	32.2	21.6
Bhopal	—	28.3	13.8	Mumbai	—	32.7	17.6
Bhubaneswar	0.1	29.7	21.4	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	24.0	8.7	New Delhi	—	24.6	8.7
Chennai	—	33.6	27.4	Patna	—	22.8	13.6
Coimbatore	—	35.7	23.4	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.4
Dehradun	—	22.6	6.8	Puducherry	—	32.2	27.0
Gangtok	6.1	14.4	5.3	Pune	—	33.5	14.4
Goa	—	31.4	20.2	Raipur	—	32.8	19.3
Guwahati	3	29.4	13.0	Ranchi	—	26.4	13.2
Hubballi	—	36.0	17.0	Shillong	—	18.1	7.5
Hyderabad	—	33.3	23.2	Shimla	—	14.2	2.3
Imphal	5	24.3	10.1	Srinagar	—	11.2	-3.1
Jaipur	—	25.2	13.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.6	25.6
Kochi	—	31.4	26.0	Tiruchi	—	35.6	26.0
Kohima	—	16.6	8.4	Vijayawada	—	34.1	25.6
Kolkata	—	22.6	19.5	Visakhapatnam	—	32.5	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	30	.18	200	121	
Bengaluru	.10	60	.34	102	163	
Chennai	3	.24	.62	94	114	
Delhi	.39	164	.44	221	255	
Hyderabad	3	33	.50	91	131	
Kolkata	.14	.71	.30	83	112	
Lucknow	.10	.79	.24	187	151	
Mumbai	.21	124	101	58	82	
Pune	103	141	112	100	101	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.37	.18	59	76	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 267 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tumakuru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Poor amenities, traffic mar experience of devotees visiting Medaram Jatara

P. Laxma Reddy
HYDERABAD

Poor traffic management and inadequate provision of drinking water or buttermilk led to significant difficulties for lakhs of pilgrims participating in the Sammakka-Saralamma (Sarakka) Jatara at Medaram in Mulugu district.

Many questioned the issuance of VVIP and VIP passes by district authorities, which, they said, prolonged waiting times for the general public seeking darshan of the presiding deities at the Medaram tribal shrine on Friday.

At a snail's pace: People caught in the traffic between Tadwai and Medaram road on Friday. P. LAXMA REDDY

There were also allegations of irregularities in the issuance of such passes to officials, politicians and journalists.

Halts of buses

Regarding the halts of TSRTC buses, many devotees asserted that police failed to ensure uninterrupted passage along the route to Hanamkonda via Tadwai and Pasra.

Devotees who began their journey on RTC buses or in private vehicles around 8:30 p.m. arrived at Hanamkonda at 2.30 a.m. the following day due to a traffic congestion that snaked over 15 km between Medaram and Pasra, including a stretch through the forest.

Contrary to official claims, complaints arose regarding a lack of effective traffic management and the limited number of cranes and towing machines.

Drivers complained about the unprecedented hardships, with one saying: "I have not witnessed such poor traffic management in the past decade. We had to wait for nearly four hours in the vehicle."

The simultaneous presence of buses, cars, tractors and lorries on the same route worsened the situation.

Dearth of essentials

Devotees also encountered difficulties in queues due to a dearth of essential amenities such as drinking water and buttermilk amidst the sweltering heat, said Srikanth, a devotee from Karimnagar.

The biennial tribal fair is set to conclude on Saturday evening, with organisers (Koya community priests) facilitating the return of the deities into the forest and other designated abodes.

Expedite work on YTPP, says Bhatti

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has instructed officials to expedite work on the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant. He, along with Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, inspected the ongoing construction of the plant at Dameracherla mandal of Nalgonda district on Saturday, and later, held a review meeting with the officials concerned regarding the progress of work.

Addressing concerns over project delays and budget overruns, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for speedy completion to ease the financial burden. He highlighted the government's commitment to supporting local employment and suggested the officials to appoint a special officer to oversee the works on a regular basis.

The delegation discussed the project's challenges, including environmental impact and water pollution issues. Officials assured implementation of modern technologies to mitigate dust and pollution, alongside plans for ash utilisation and water recycling.

Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy raised concerns about loan interest rates and workforce disruptions due to the pandemic earlier. On the other hand, Mr. Venkat Reddy emphasised the importance of locals' participation in subcontracting and small-scale works.

Officials explained the progress of work through a video presentation. By March 2025, all the units will be installed, and a total of 4,000 MW power will be generated.

Get, set, go

Racing ahead: Buffaloes running in a slush field during 'Katapadi Beedu Jodukare Kambala' at Katapadi in Udupi district on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Residents celebrate 894th birthday of Tirupati

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

The residents of Tirupati, led by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust board chairman and legislator Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, took out a rally around the inner and outer layers of the four streets that originally formed the old town of Tirupati, to celebrate its 894th birthday.

The event began with Mr. Karunakar Reddy formally paying obeisance at Sri Ramanuja's shrine and inviting the Pedda Jeeyangar and Chinna Jeeyangar, anointed as the pontiff's successors.

According to legend, it was on February 24, 1130, that saint Bhagawad Ramanujacharya consecrated the idol of Sri Govindaraja Swamy inside the sanctum sanctorum and laid the foundation stone for developing an 'Agraharam' (township) around the shrine.

TTD Chairman B. Karunakar Reddy, Executive Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy, Pedda Jeeyangar and Chinna Jeeyangar, Member of Parliament M. Gurumoorthy and Deputy Mayor B. Abhinay Reddy taking part in a procession in Tirupati on Saturday.

Thus, the township of Tirupati formally came into existence in the year 1130, first with the name Govindarajapuram and then Ramanujapatnam. The residential township was meant for the priests, who trekked up and down the Tirumala hills to perform daily rituals, to inhabit.

894 years later, the native residents of Tirupati joined the procession with jubilation. The shops in the busy commercial area remained closed till noon to facilitate the procession. With colourful flags and festoons tied all over the streets, the procession included students from Vedic institutions, local schools, artistes from the TTD's S.V. College of Music and Dance, Annamacharya Project and other cultural bodies. Several dressed up as Lord Venkateswara, Sri Rama, Hanuman, and Emperor Sri Krishna Devaraya.

Modern touch

The municipal corporation laid new master plan roads, widened existing ones, built an elevated corridor 'Srinivasa Setu' and beautified several traffic islands by installing aesthetic statues, thus adding a 'modern touch' to the ancient city.

Mr. Karunakar Reddy, in the presence of TTD Executive Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy, announced that this day will be included in TTD's annual calendar of events to ensure continuance.

Attukal Pongala goes global

Now, non-resident Keralites observe the ritual abroad; women gather to worship the Mother Goddess by cooking rice with jaggery and ghee

Saraswathy Nagarajan
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

It is that time of the year when thousands of women from India and abroad congregate for the annual festival of the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

During 'Attukal Pongala', the whole city will turn into a giant kitchen where women worship the Mother Goddess by cooking 'Pongala' (rice cooked with jaggery and ghee, and garnished with cashewnuts and raisins) and other rice-based dishes on open hearths. The ritual entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day.

Crossing boundaries: Devotees offering Pongala at Hindu Society of central Florida, Orlando, in the U.S. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mark of devotion

Over time, the Pongala has gone international with the Malayali diaspora taking it to the U.S. and the U.K. Although several non-resident Keralites make it a point to be in the State for the festival, those who were not able to travel began doing it in their kitchens as a mark of their devotion.

Author Omana Gangadharan, former civic Mayor of Newham, London, recalls that during a media interaction, actor-politician Suresh Gopi had asked her if she could organise something to observe the 'Attukal Pongala' celebration in the UK.

"That motivated me to approach the London Sree Murugan Temple to request if five of us could offer 'Pongala' on the day of the 'Attukal Pongala' in Thiruvananthapuram. I never thought they would agree to it. But they agreed happily. We were able to offer 'Pongala' in 2009 and from then on, it just got bigger every year," she recalls, speaking on the phone from the U.K..

Since the law does not permit open fires, the 'Pongala' is cooked in a giant pot with 10 kilograms of rice on the premises of the temple.

Across the Atlantic, in the U.S., Dr. Jaisy Baiju is among a handful of women who began celebrating the festival on the premises of the temple of the Hindu Society of central Florida, Orlando, in 2015.

"Since Florida has a tropical climate, we are able to cook the Pongala on open hearths as it is done in Thiruvananthapuram. There is a year-long preparation for the Pongala," she says.

This year, perhaps for the first time, the Kerala Hindus of North America Women Forum is organising the festival in several States in the U.S.

Geetha, who runs an NGO, says it was Devi Pillai, a friend who hails from Attingal, Thiruvananthapuram, who motivated them to begin the celebration in Orlando. Earthen pots and ingredients were sourced from a shop specialising in Indian provisions.

She asserts that although many Malayalis celebrate Indian festivals during weekends, they insist on celebrating the 'Attukal Pongala' on the same day as it is held in Thiruvananthapuram. Jaisy adds: "Of course, the time zones are different. So, while many of you are resting after the Pongala, we might be beginning the day for the festival. But the fervour is the same!"

From Page One

Bitter rivals Congress, AAP seal alliance deal

"In Gujarat, the AAP will contest from Bharuch and Bhavnagar seats, while the Congress will contest from the remaining 24 seats. In Haryana, the AAP will contest from Kurukshetra, while Congress will contest from the remaining nine seats," Mr. Wasnik said. The Congress will be contesting both seats from Goa and the single seat from Chandigarh. "I have full confidence that each Congress worker will honour this decision and AAP workers will also follow this agreement," he said.

Leaders of both parties had announced they had reached a "mutual understanding" not to enter into an alliance in Punjab, and will be fielding their own candidates for all seats.

Asked why the two parties had not joined hands in Punjab, Mr. Wasnik said that "special circumstances" exist in the State. In Assam as well, the AAP has announced that it will be contesting three seats.

Indian 'helper' dies in Russian war zone

"We saw a drone hovering above us. I was digging a trench and Hemil was practising how to fire, around 150 metres away. Suddenly we heard some noise. Myself and two other Indians, along with other Russian soldiers, hid in the trench. The missiles struck and the earth shook. After some time when we got out, I found Hemil dead. I was the one who put his body on a truck," Mr. Ahmad said.

Another Indian worker shared a photograph of Mangukiya's body, with multiple injuries on the face and skull.

"In all, there were four Indians including Hemil who were part of the group.. Hemil was very close to the Russian military commander and they trusted him. The air strike happened when the trench was being dug up. A Nepalese was also among those killed," another Indian worker said.

Though the exact details of the incident are unknown, a report by *BBC News* said that at least 60 Russian troops were killed after a training area in occupied eastern Ukraine was hit by two missiles. Chatter on Russian Telegram channels showed that the group had been hit by Ukrainian missiles when they had lined up in an open field for inspection.

Centre discloses key consumption survey data

Importantly, the numbers show that the proportion of spending on food has dropped to 46.4% for rural households from 52.9% in 2011-12, while their urban peers spent just 39.2% of their overall monthly outgoes on food compared with 42.6% incurred 11 years earlier. This reduction could translate into a lower weightage for food prices in the country's retail inflation calculations.

The MPCE numbers do not take into account the imputed values of items received free of cost by individuals through various social welfare programmes such as the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) or State-run schemes, which were calculated separately, while including a few non-food items received through such schemes, including computers, mobile phones, bicycles, and clothes.

The average MPCE, at 2011-12 prices, was a tad higher when these items were included while excluding free education and healthcare sops – at ₹2,054 for rural households, and ₹3,544 for urban homes.

The Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry released a factsheet on the summary of the Survey findings and said a detailed report on the survey will be brought out subsequently. The estimates of the MPCE are based on data collected from 2,61,746 households, of which 1,55,014 were in rural areas, spread over all States and Union Territories, the Ministry said.

How three lakh tulips bloomed in Delhi

"NDMC has taken extensive care to ensure the tulips survive in Delhi despite them not being indigenously found in the city," Mr. Raju said, beaming, as he gently watered the plants. The gardener explained that tulip care did not end with planting. Since they have become crowd pullers, inviting hundreds of people every day, staffers have been tasked with ensuring no one pulls at them.

Shankar, (name changed) has been posted as a security guard on the Shantipath lawns. He works in eight-hour shifts along with two or three other security personnel, reprimanding any visitor who 'disturbs' the tulips.

"They are very expensive; NDMC has given us strict instructions to make sure that nothing happens to them," he said, admitting that it was getting tiring to tell people all day long not to touch the flowers. On February 13, a motorcyclist was caught for attempting to pluck tulips from the lawns.

Pradip Krishen, an environmentalist and author of *Trees of Delhi: A Field Guide*, said that since tulips bloom for a very short period, they would probably not have long-term impacts on the environment of Delhi. However, he says it is akin to raising a polar bear in the capital: "One can obviously attempt to do so with modern technology, but that does not mean one should."

Three new criminal laws to come into force on July 1

A Section of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on hit-and-run cases put on hold after the truckers stir; since the laws will overhaul criminal justice system, govt. had sought time to train police and judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The three new criminal laws that were passed by Parliament in 2023 will come into effect from July 1, according to a notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Section 106(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which provides for punishment of "0-10 years" in "hit-and-run" cases, has been put on hold. Earlier, transporters and drivers across the country struck work to protest the particular provision.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam that will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860; Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively, received President Droupadi Murmu's assent on December 25, 2023.

Though the legislations were passed in 2023, the date of implementation was not notified.

MHA notification

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 1 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (46 of 2023), the Central government hereby appoints July 1, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Sanhita, except the provisions of the entry relating to section 106(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, in the First Schedule, shall come into force," the Ministry of Home Affairs notification said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on December 12, 2023 introduced three revised Bills in the Lok Sabha to replace the existing colonial-era criminal laws, after withdrawing the previous versions, introduced in August.

Since the new laws will overhaul the criminal justice system, the government has sought time to train police officials and the judiciary. While the Union Territories under the Centre have trained police officials on priority, such enthusiasm was seen lacking in States.

Slow progress by States

"Not many States have shown the urgency to train the police officials in the new laws. Now that the date to implement the laws have been notified, they do not have an option but to set things in action," an official said.

Section 106(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has kept in abeyance, honouring the assurance given by the Union government to the transporters' associations on January 2.

Currently, under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the punishment for causing death by negligence is two years imprisonment and fine, or both.

Cong. takes a swipe at BJP over 'delay' in finalising seat sharing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Questioning the BJP's "delay" in announcing seat-sharing arrangements in crucial States such as Bihar and Maharashtra, the Congress on Saturday asked the party if "it is being held hostage by the parties that it sought to gobble up".

Hours after the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) made a formal announcement about its seat-sharing arrangements, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal took to social media platform to take a swipe at the BJP.

"In the last week, the INDIA alliance has sealed important seat sharing in U.P., M.P., Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana and Chandigarh. In the coming few days, all our other discussions will also reach a positive conclusion. Meanwhile – what is happening in the NDA (National Democratic Alliance)? Are all the ill-conceived, corrupt and opportunistic M&A deals giving BJP sleepless nights?" Mr. Venugopal asked on X. "Is the party which claims to win 400+ seats being held hostage by those parties it wanted to gobble up?" he added.

Alliance woes

Meanwhile, the Congress's alliance with the AAP in Gujarat has upset the daughter of late Ahmed Patel, the former political secretary of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. As part of an alliance on two seats in Gujarat, the Congress gave away the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat to the AAP.

The seat was represented by Patel between 1977 and 1989, and his daughter, Mumtaz Patel, was a contender for the seat. "Deeply apologise to our district cadre for not being able to secure the Bharuch Lok Sabha seat in alliance. I share your disappointment," Ms. Patel said.

On Friday, Congress leader Salman Khurshid too expressed disappointment, when his Lok Sabha seat in Farrukhabad went to the Samajwadi Party in the alliance.

Protect our interests at WTO: farmers, fishers to govt.

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Concerns of farmers, small retailers and fisherfolk against the agendas placed before the World Trade Organisation's 13th ministerial conference, scheduled to begin in Abu Dhabi on Monday, are bridging the gaps between both the factions of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM).

Both have demanded that the Centre abstain from taking any decision that could harm the food security and interests of farmers. The main concerns of farmers are on the draft texts on additional provisions on fisheries subsidies, work programme on e-commerce and draft text on agriculture.

The National Fishworkers Forum sent a letter to Union Minister Piyush Goyal urging him that it is essential to articulate a robust case for small-scale and indigenous, artisanal fishers and their specific needs in the negotiations.

Prime Minister lauds role of cooperatives in farmers' welfare

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cooperatives have the potential to tackle the personal issues of farmers with collective strength, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while inaugurating multiple key initiatives for the cooperative sector here on Saturday.

"The power of cooperation has a huge role in strengthening the foundation of agriculture and farming," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the 'world's largest grain storage plan' in cooperative sector, which covers 11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in 11 States. Mr. Modi also laid the foundation stone for additional 500 PACS across the country for construction of godowns and other agri-infrastructure under this initiative. The Centre said the initiative aimed at fortifying food security and fostering economic development in the country. with a collaborative effort supported by NABARD and spearheaded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation.

Narendra Modi

Mr. Modi said the spirit of cooperatives was beyond the boundaries of systems and resources and produced exceptional results. "The benefits of cooperatives are now reaching fishermen and *pashupalaks* also. More than 25,000 cooperative units are functional in the fishery sector," he said underlining that cooperatives have the potential to tackle the personal issues of farmers with collective strength.

Assam to repeal Muslim Marriage Act, Opposition terms it 'unconstitutional'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

According to the govt., all marriages will have to be registered under the Special Marriage Act

Ahead of introducing a Bill on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) that is akin to the legislation in Uttarakhand, the Assam government has decided to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act of 1935.

The State Cabinet, which met on Friday night, approved the Assam Repealing Ordinance, 2024, for repealing the British-era marriage and divorce Act specific to Muslims.

Tourism Minister and government spokesperson Jayanta Malla Baruah told presspersons after the meeting that the decision to repeal the Act was made as the State is heading towards the UCC.

"The Chief Minister [Himanta Biswa Sarma] has been clear about the UCC. So, we took the very important decision to repeal Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act, 1935," Mr. Baruah said.

"Muslim marriages and divorces will no longer be registered under this Act. We want all marriages to be registered under the Special Marriage Act," Mr. Baruah said, adding that the Act was being misused for marriages of minors.

He said District Commissioners and District Registrars would be authorised to take custody of registration records currently in the custody of 94 Muslim marriage registrars on the repeal of the legislation, under the overall supervision, guidance, and control of the Inspector-General of Registration.

"A one-time compensation of ₹2 lakh will be provided to each Muslim marriage registrar for their rehabilitation after the Act is repealed," he said.

Posting the decisions on X, the Chief Minister said the provisions of the Act offer "scope for registering marriages of intended persons below 21 years (for males) and 18 years (for females) and there is hardly any monitoring for implementation of the Act".

The Opposition Congress and the minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) have criticised the State's BJP-led government for targeting Muslims through the "unconstitutional step" of repealing the Act.

"The Assam government could not bring in any Bill on polygamy or the UCC. So, they have targeted this Act although the Cabinet does not have the right to repeal or amend a constitutional right," AIUDF legislator Rafiqul Islam said.

EC tells States not to transfer officials to same constituencies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In order to ensure level playing field in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission has asked State governments to ensure that officers who are transferred out of a district after completing three years are not posted in another district within the same parliamentary constituency.

The existing EC policy on transfers says that all officers who are either posted in their home district or have completed three years at a place are transferred out ahead of the Lok Sabha or the Assembly polls to ensure they do not disturb the level playing field in favour of a candidate or a party. The poll body, in a statement on Saturday, said it took "serious note" of cases in which officers were being transferred to adjacent districts within the same parliamentary constituency by the State governments.

'Strengthening policy'

By tweaking the existing policy, "...the commission has strengthened its existing transfer policy to ensure that officials are not able to disturb the level playing field in the elections," the EC said.

The policy "must be adhered to in both letter and spirit and not just being camouflaged to show compliance", the EC told the States, adding that the commission had a zero-tolerance policy towards officials who disturbed the level playing field in elections.

BJP is spreading hate, says Priyanka as she joins Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday joined the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra at Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh.

Criticising the BJP for "spreading hate", both leaders said the common people of the country are being robbed systematically by the ruling regime.

"A systematic design is at play to divide society and incite hate. It [hate] can only be defeated and overcome with love. Someone who loves the country can never spread hate," said Mr. Gandhi, while addressing the public in Moradabad, a communally sensitive district in U.P.

Marching on: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Moradabad on Saturday. PTI

Flagging the question paper leak in the U.P. constable recruitment examination, they said the term '*nyay*' was added to the yatra as injustice is being done to the youth today.

"You [youth] work hard but your paper gets leaked and you don't get a job. Injustice is being done to women. You are facing inflation. Loans of farmers are not waived, but loans of big industrialists are waived. Unless you bring change, the situation is not going to change," said Ms. Vadra.

Unless common people get employment, unless paper leaks are stopped, common people and India cannot progress, she said.

The yatra will leave U.P. on February 25.

Present clear plan in March meet, Cabinet Ministers told

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked his Cabinet Ministers to prepare an "actionable, measurable and clearly defined" plan and present it in the meeting of the Council of Ministers on March 3, government sources said on Saturday.

It may be noted that Mr. Modi in the last Cabinet meeting on February 21 had asked his Ministerial colleagues to prepare an action plan for the next 100 days.

The Prime Minister, sources said, wants to ensure that the government's work goes on amid the poll cycle and his call for preparing the agenda for the next 100 days is part of the effort.

Sports winners in armed forces will get financial incentives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajnath Singh

By 2028-29, India's annual defence production is expected to touch ₹3 lakh crore and defence exports to ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. In a separate development, he approved financial incentives for armed forces personnel who bagged medals in the 19th Asian Games and 4th Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou, China in September-October 2023.

For the games, gold medal winners will receive a cash reward of ₹25 lahks each, silver medal winners ₹15 lahks each and Bronze medal winners ₹10 lakhs each. There are 45 medal winners who won medals in both the games, including seven Para athletes.

"This financial incentive, announced by the MoD for the armed forces personnel for the first time, will further motivate these athletes to exhibit an even better performance at qualifying events of the Paris Olympics Games 2024 for which they are currently preparing," the Ministry said in a statement.

Mr. Singh pointed out that the government has been focusing on the integration of the three Services which will ensure enhanced coordination in times of crisis.

Listing out the major steps taken in defence manufacturing, Mr. Singh said, the MoD has notified five positive indigenisation lists of the Services, comprising over 500 items, and four other lists, with over 4,600 items for Defence Public Sector Undertakings to ensure that the soldiers use made in India weapons and platforms.

Quad grouping is here to stay and grow, says Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister says the grouping expresses the democratising of the global space and a collaborative, not unilateral, approach that requires like-minded countries working together

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

S. Jaishankar addresses the Quad Think Tank Forum. ANI

Stating that the Quad grouping is here to stay, grow and contribute, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday that it stands as a statement that in this day and age, "others cannot have a veto on our choices." He said the grouping – comprising India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. – is facilitated by the emergence of the Indo-Pacific region, and is propelled by a change in the global order that requires more, not less, collaboration among like-minded countries.

"The post-1945 division of what till then was perceived to be a cohesive theatre resulted in a contemplating of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific as two separate entities. This separation was an outcome of American strategic priorities in 1945. Ironically, it is America's repositioning today that is helping to rectify it," Mr. Jaishankar said, addressing the inaugural Quad Think Tank Forum which coincided with the Raisina Dialogue which concluded on February 23.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell addressed the forum virtually.

Mr. Jaishankar focussed on what the grouping stands for. "I believe it has five messages. One, it reflects the growth of a multipolar order. Two, it is post-alliance and post-Cold War thinking. Three, it is against spheres of influence. Four, it expresses the democratising of the global space and a collaborative, not unilateral, approach. Five, it is a statement that in this day and age, others cannot have a veto on our choices."

The 2020 standoff with China in eastern Ladakh has also significantly changed India's relations with Beijing and forged a closer alignment with Washington. It was after the standoff that India agreed to Australia's inclusion in the Malabar naval exercise as a full member, bringing all four countries together.

"The Quad is an overhead-light, creative, flexible, nimble, responsive, and open-minded enterprise. These are not adjectives we normally associate with the bureaucracy," he added.

On the achievements of the Quad, the Minister said that the focus was on addressing the region's most pressing needs and challenges, which are maritime security, infrastructure and connectivity, critical technologies, and climate action among others.

'Countries should be aware of degrees of terrorist financing'

Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

FATF has agreed on changes to its assessment process for the next round of mutual evaluations

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary has finalised the modifications to its assessment methodology to reflect the recent revisions to its standards for the protection of non-profit organisations (NPOs) from potential abuse for terrorist financing.

At the plenary that concluded on February 23 under the presidency of T. Raja Kumar from Singapore, the delegates from the FATF's Global Network of over 200 jurisdictions and observers from international organisations participated in the discussions on key money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing issues at the FATF headquarters in Paris.

"The FATF has now agreed on changes to its assessment methodology for the next round of mutual evaluations, which clarify the existing obligations to apply risk-based measures to protect NPOs that are most vulnerable to potential terrorist financing abuse and prevent the unintended consequences of the incorrect application of the FATF's requirements," it said.

Recommendation 8

At its October 2023 plenary, the FATF agreed on the changes to Recommendation 8, which is meant to protect NPOs from potential terrorist financing abuse through the effective implementation of risk-based measures. It also updated the related best practices to help countries, the non-profit sector and financial institutions in taking the relevant steps, without unduly disrupting or discouraging legitimate NPO activities.

In June 2022, the FATF plenary had agreed to deliberate on the suggestions to amend Recommendation 8 and its best practices manual in order to address the issue of excessive preventive measures being applied to the sector in some countries, which could have a negative impact on legitimate NPO activities. Subsequently, a project team prepared a draft.

The draft suggested that countries should develop an understanding of the various degrees of terrorist-financing risk posed to NPOs and of the corresponding different levels of mitigating measures required. "Many NPOs may face low TF [terrorist financing] risk exposure, may have adequate self-regulatory measures to mitigate such risks, and/or may already be subject to adequate level of legal and regulatory requirements, such that there may be no need for additional measures," it said.

While the amendments were being considered in November 2023, days before the start of FATF's periodic review of India's performance, Amnesty International, Charity & Security Network, and Human Rights Watch had alleged that the Indian government was prosecuting, and harassing human rights defenders, activists, and NPOs, on the pretext of countering terrorist financing.

Centre to examine Ladakh's demand for constitutional safeguards

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government has agreed to examine how the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution can be implemented in Ladakh's context, according to an understanding reached between civil society leaders and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials on Saturday. In the next meeting, legal and constitutional experts will come together to discuss the legality and the context of granting Statehood to Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule.

The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution protects tribal populations, allowing for the creation of autonomous development councils which can frame laws on land, public health, and agriculture. As of now, 10 autonomous councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

On Saturday, members of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) in Ladakh met MHA officials for a third round of meetings. The LAB and KDA are demanding Statehood and the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule thus giving it a tribal status, job reservations for residents, and a parliamentary seat each for Leh and Kargil.

Ladakh was turned into a Union Territory (UT) after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by the Parliament on August 5, 2019.

Fast postponed

The meeting ended on a positive note, according to former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament Thupstan Chhewang. He has been spearheading the talks and the movement to ensure a constitutional safeguard for the region. Along with climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, he had threatened to sit on a fast unto death in sub-zero temperatures if their demands were not met but now says this will be postponed while the meetings with the MHA continue.

Sajjad Kargili of the KDA said that MHA officials assured them that the issue of creating a Service Selection Board for Ladakh would be resolved soon, and they were examining if gazetted jobs could be provided along the lines of Sixth Schedule areas of northeastern States. "The positive outcome is the result of the unity between LAB and the KDA. The meeting lasted over two hours and we discussed all our demands in detail," Mr. Kargili said.

The UT has erupted in protests several times over the past four years amid concerns about the protection of land, resources, and employment for local residents, and bureaucratic overreach.

Sharad Pawar unveils new party symbol at Raigad fort

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

After losing the iconic 'clock' symbol of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to the Ajit Pawar-led rebel NCP faction, the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) unveiled its new symbol of a 'man blowing *tura* (trumpet)' in the presence of party chief Sharad Pawar at Raigad fort on Saturday. Mr. Sharad Pawar paid obeisance to the statue of the 17th century warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji.

He also sought the support of party workers in winning the upcoming Lok Sabha election. "...To establish a people's government, we need to struggle and hence we have to strengthen the trumpet symbol. It is an inspiration to launch a new struggle for people's welfare and a government which works for their upliftment," he said.

Paper leak allegation: U.P. cancels constable recruitment exam

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Yogi Adityanath

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday cancelled the police constable recruitment examination in the State, which was conducted on February 17 and 18 and was followed by allegations of paper leaks. The re-examination will now be conducted within the next six months.

"There can be no compromise in the sanctity of the examinations. Those who play with the hard work of youngsters will not be spared under any circumstances. The strictest action will be taken against such anti-social elements," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath wrote on X.

Uttar Pradesh, in the last week of December last year, notified for 60,244 posts of police constable under the State police force. The registration process, which began on December 27, 2023, and ended on January 16, 2024, led to 48.17 lakh aspirants filling out the form to appear in the written test, which took place at 2,385 centres across 75 districts of the State.

Opposition parties used the decision to hit out at the Uttar Pradesh government, saying that it was "forced to bow down" before the youth.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is currently leading the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the State, hailed the cancellation as a big victory for students.

Nadda chairs meeting on BJP's poll campaigns

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

BJP president J. P. Nadda on Saturday chaired a meeting of party leaders who have been made incharge of different States for Lok Sabha elections and took stock of the ongoing campaign and mass outreach programmes.

With PM Narendra Modi setting a target of winning 370 seats for the BJP, sources said the party leadership stressed the need for an intensive drive to reach out to different sections of society and connect with voters at the booth level.

Mr. Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah later attended a separate meeting with the BJP's Uttar Pradesh leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The party is looking to boost its tally in the country's largest State and has targeted the seats where it had lost in 2019.

Naval warship provides aid to merchant vessel

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

An Indian warship provided critical assistance to a merchant vessel after it caught fire following a suspected drone or missile attack in the Gulf of Aden, the latest in a series of such support missions in the region.

Palau-flagged vessel *MV Islander* came under attack on February 22 and a crew member of the ship sustained injuries, Indian military officials said.

In a response to a distress call from the vessel, the Indian warship arrived in the vicinity of the cargo ship to provide support, an official said.

Correction

The article titled 'Changing the growth paradigm' published in the editorial page of the February 24 edition of *The Hindu* erroneously referred to an open letter from "the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India" to the Union Finance Minister. It should have been "a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India". The reference was to D. Subbarao.

The error is regretted.

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PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Applications are invited for one post of **SRF (Biochemistry / Biotechnology)** for IMR – GCC project at Siddha Regional Research Institute, Puducherry. Interested candidates may send their applications in the prescribed format on or before **18.03.2024, 5.00 pm.** Project details, essential qualifications and other eligibility criteria are available in the website **www.siddhacouncil.com.** The date of Personal interview will be notified in the CCRS Website.

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CONTACT DETAILS
The Director, CDOE, Periyar University, Salem - 636 011.
Email ID : pridedirector@periyaruniversity.ac.in
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Notice for Empanelment of Patent Agent / Firm / Attorney

File No: NIFTEM-T/PI/23-24/190 Date: 13.02.2024

NIFTEM-Thanjavur, a pioneer Research and Educational Institution under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India intends to empanel **Patent Agent / Firm / Attorney** for protection of NIFTEM-T's IPR in India. The details regarding the eligibility, experience, requirements, etc.,are available at **https://niftem-t.ac.in/tenders.php** and CPPP web page. All interested eligible candidates/ firms may apply through CPPP on or before **05.03.2024, 02.00 pm** **Registrar**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOLOGY
(An autonomous research institute of Department of Biotechnology) Government of India.
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067 URL : http://www.nii.res.in

Admission to Ph.D. Programme for the Academic Year 2024-2M (Monsoon-session)

The National Institute of Immunology (NII) invites applications for its Ph.D. programme. Cutting-edge research at NII encompasses broad interdisciplinary areas of **Immunology, Infectious and Chronic Disease Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemical Biology, Structural Biology and Computational Biology.**

Important dates:
Key Dates:

Online Application begins	**: 26.02.2024**
Online Application closing	**: 25.03.2024**
Admit card available for download	**: 08.04.2024 (onwards)**
NII-2024-25M Entrance Examination	**: 28.04.2024 (Sunday)**
Entrance results announcement	**: 06.05.2024**
Online interviews 1st Round	**: 04.06.2024-06.06.2024**
Online interviews 2nd Round	**: 10.06.2024-12.06.2024**

The details of the application process are available at http://www.nii.res.in

Women candidates fulfilling the requirements are encouraged to apply

INBRIEF

Four houses attached, cash seized in narco-terror case

The NIA on Saturday said it has attached four residential houses and seized cash in an alleged narco-terrorism case in Kupwara district. An NIA spokesperson said it attached the immovable properties, including a double-storey house of a suspect, Afaq Ahmad Wani; a single-storey house of another suspect, Muneer Ahmad Pandey, the house of Saleem Andrabi and the double-storeyed house of Islam-ul-Haq. "The properties belonging to the four accused have been attached in tehsil Handwara of district Kupwara by the NIA, which has also seized a total of ₹2.27 crore in cash under Section 25 of the UA(P) Act," the NIA said.

Police arrest 'mastermind' of Haldwani violence in Delhi

The Uttarakhand police on Saturday arrested Abdul Malik, the alleged mastermind of Haldwani violence early this month, from Delhi. The violence happened after the demolition of a mosque and madrasa by the district administration, leaving five dead and over 100 injured. According to police, Mr. Malik, had encroached '*nazool*' land which he was selling to people illegally, and the violence was pre-planned event to challenge the State machinery. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Prahlad Naryan Meena, told *The Hindu* that around 82 people have been arrested so far in connection with the violence.

Flyers of Air Mauritius stuck in aircraft for five hours

Passengers onboard an Air Mauritius flight were stuck on the aircraft for over five hours at Mumbai airport on February 24 before the airline decided to cancel it, one of the flyers said. The Air Mauritius flight MK 749 from Mumbai to Mauritius was to depart at 4.30 a.m. and passengers boarded the plane from 3.45 a.m. onwards, he said. There were nearly 200 passengers onboard, including a 78-year-old man who developed a breathing problem as the aircraft's air-conditioning system was not working, he alleged. Air Mauritius GSA (general sales agent) in India did not respond to phone calls from PTI.

HC allows M.J. Akbar's plea for early hearing of his appeal

The Delhi High Court on Friday allowed former Union Minister M.J. Akbar's plea seeking an early hearing of his appeal challenging a trial court order acquitting journalist Priya Ramani in a criminal defamation case filed by him over her allegations of sexual harassment. The High Court has listed the appeal for hearing on April 26. In his application, Mr. Akbar said that he was a senior citizen and a senior journalist. He noted that two years have passed since the filing of his appeal and urged the court for an early hearing. On January 13, 2022, the High Court agreed to examine Mr. Akbar's appeal against the trial court order and admitted the appeal. It has also issued a notice to Ms. Ramani in the case.

SUDOKU

	5				2			4
4						3	1	
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7			3				4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6079 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	8	2	9	1	3	4	5
1	2	4	6	5	3	8	9	7
9	5	3	8	7	4	1	6	2
6	3	1	5	8	7	4	2	9
8	9	5	1	4	2	7	3	6
4	7	2	9	3	6	5	1	8
2	8	6	4	1	5	9	7	3
3	4	9	7	6	8	2	5	1
5	1	7	3	2	9	6	8	4

22 dead as tractor-trolley falls into water body in U.P.

Police say the passengers were on their way to take a dip in the Ganga; eight children and 13 women among the deceased; PM announces ex gratia of ₹4 lakh to kin of each of the victims

Press Trust of India
KASGANJ

Twenty-two people, including eight children, died when their tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, officials said.

Earlier, Inspector-General of Aligarh range Shalabh Mathur had said 24 passengers died in the accident and 15 to 20 people were injured.

However later, Relief Commissioner of Uttar Pradesh Naveen Kumar G.S., citing a statement of Kasganj Additional District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Patel, said: "Twenty-two people died when the tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond. The deceased include 13 women, a man and eight children. Ten people are currently undergoing treatment."

The Kasganj district administration said that ₹4 lakh will be provided to the kin of each of the deceased, while ₹50,000 will be provided to each of the injured persons.

Search for survivors: A rescue operation is under way after a tractor-trolley fell into a pond in Kasganj district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

Condolences pour in

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have condoled the loss of lives in the incident. Mr. Modi said that ₹2 lakh ex gratia from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of each deceased and the injured would be given ₹50,000.

The passengers were going to take a bath in the Ganga river on full moon.

According to the Kasganj district administration, information regarding the accident in Daryavganj village was received around 10 a.m. "A number of people died while others were injured. The injured were sent to the health centres in Patiyali and Kasganj, and a government hospital in Kasganj," it said.

"The tractor-trolley was coming from Etah district. I am going to the spot with the divisional commissioner [of Aligarh]," Mr. Mathur had said earlier.

Redressal camps fail to contain villagers' anger in Sandeshkhali

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government's attempts to contain the anger of people at Sandeshkhali village by having grievance redressal booths have not bore the desired results as villagers continue to protest on Saturday.

After the camps to register complaints by the district administration, the police have set up camps in Bermajur gram panchayat of Sandeshkhali village. By Saturday evening, 73 complaints were registered with the police and more than 60 complaints were related to land grab.

Earlier from February 18, camps were opened by the district administration across schools in Sandeshkhali so that locals can register their complaints. Booths to file separate complaints against food, agriculture and land departments were set up in the school for around three days.

The booths had registered about 800 complaints, a majority of which are relating to land grab and forcible conversion of *bheries* (shallow water ponds). As villagers in Bermajur gram panchayat became restive over the past few days, the senior police officers had assured that the camps would be set up.

Leaders heckled

Meanwhile, villagers in Sandeshkhali continued to protest. On Saturday, another local Trinamool Congress leader Benoy Sardar was chased by villagers. On Friday, Trinamool leader Ajit Maity was heckled by villagers and the police had to intervene.

On Saturday, villagers, particularly women, raised slogans against Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan and his brother Sheikh Sirajuddin, demanding their arrest. Slogans like "we want Sheikh Shahjahan to be arrested" were raised by the women. The villagers also openly expressed their anger against the police and said that whenever they approached the authorities with a complaint, they were asked by the police to go to Sheikh Shahjahan and his aides.

It should not be left to one person to select judges for a Bench, says Justice Joseph

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph on Saturday revealed that hectic meetings held among judges within the top court immediately after the January 2018 press conference even considered shifting the power of 'master of roster' (the authority to allocate cases among judges) from the sole custody of the Chief Justice of India to a three-judge committee.

The press conference saw four senior-most judges of the top court, including Justice Joseph, publicly express their apprehensions about the listing of certain sensitive cases and the independence of the judiciary, considered a basic feature of the Constitution. Memories of the press conference were rekindled recently when two senior lawyers, Dushyant Dave and Prashant Bhushan, separately wrote to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and the SC Registry about "irregularities" in the listing of cases.

Justice Kurian Joseph

Justice Joseph (retd.) said the meetings were held between the four judges and their colleagues. He recounted they had discussed the "perception among the public" that the "master of roster" functions were not handled the way it should be, and needed to be "appropriately regulated".

"A suggestion was raised to form a 'master of roster committee' of the first three judges of the court. One of them would naturally be in line to be the next CJI. They could take decisions on the listing of cases, constitution of the Benches, subject allocations of judges and what to do when a judge recuses from a case," he said.

The former judge said "it should not be left to one person to select four or five judges to constitute a Bench". He was speaking on the topic of 'Supreme Court administration and management - issues and concerns' at a seminar organised by the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Judicial Reforms, legal website *Live Law* and news website *The Wire*.

Pendency a worry

Justice Madan B. Lokur (retd.), also one of the four who held the press conference, said petitions challenging the electoral bonds scheme, demonetisation, abrogation of Article 370, etc., had remained pending for years in the Supreme Court before they were heard. He referred to how student activist Umar Khalid chose to withdraw his bail plea after repeated adjournments. Opacity and delay in listing of cases affect life, personal liberty and the quality of justice, Justice Lokur highlighted.

Revised NCERT textbooks for Classes 3 and 6 likely to be introduced this year

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The new National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks for the school academic year 2024-25 will most likely only be introduced for Classes 3 and 6, as per sources in the Ministry of Education (MoE). Textbooks for Class 1 and 2 based on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and National Education Policy 2020 have already been released and are available in bookstores and on the NCERT website as PDFs for free. The MoE had, on November 10, 2023, said that textbooks for all grades, from Classes 1 to 12 would be introduced in the upcoming academic year, in line with the new NCF launched last year.

While notifying curricular area groups responsible for drafting textbooks last year, the NCERT had indicated that the timeline for submitting the final draft of textbooks for all classes was February 10. The MoE sources say that textbook drafts for Class 3 have been received. These drafts, including those for English, Hindi, Urdu, Maths, and 'The World Around Us', earlier known as Environmental Studies (EVS), are being proof-read, edited and vetted by the NCERT before they are published and circulated to schools across the country.

The MoE had said textbooks for all grades would be introduced in the upcoming academic year.

For Class 6, textbook drafts for Maths, Science, and the languages (English, Hindi, Urdu, and Sanskrit) are also in the process of being finalised. It is also likely for History, Geography, and Political Science to be merged into one textbook of Social Science. Currently, Class 6 students study from three publications: Our Pasts; Our Earth: Our Habitat; Social and Political Life. "However there is no clarity on this yet as those drafts have not been received for vetting," the MoE source said.

Publishing in March

After the drafts are submitted to NCERT, editors are assigned to proofread textbooks subject-wise. "Each editor is being instructed to finish proofreading the entire book of 200 pages or more in two to three days, as textbooks need to be sent for publishing and distribution in March," the source added.

"Only Class 3 and 6 will likely receive new textbooks in 2024-25. We have not yet received textbook drafts for Class 9 or 11," the MoE source said. "Also it is important that new textbooks for senior classes are not released in haste, and that adequate time is taken to research and modify material."

Security lapse at Mumbai airport calls for more coordination

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In a serious security failure at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport on Wednesday, a ticketless man was able to enter the passenger building, and pass through multiple checkpoints to reach the airport boarding gate where he was finally stopped.

"It is a massive security breach involving lapses on the part of multiple agencies," a senior official of the Union Home Ministry told *The Hindu*. An FIR has been registered against the errant person for trespassing, and a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) official has been suspended, said sources. The CISF, the Mumbai airport, and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) are investigating the incident.

Post-midnight on Wednesday, a male passenger of "unsound" mental health was able to enter the gate of the passenger building by walking closely behind another person. While all gates are equipped with automatic e-gates, the CISF had opened more entry points during the peak rush hours where its personnel were verifying air tickets and identity documents manually when the incident happened, said a senior CISF official.

At the next checkpoint, which is the pre-embarkation security check area where passengers are frisked and their cabin baggage scanned in X-ray machines, the offender was able to pass through the automatic e-gates by once again tailing another passenger.

He repeated this while entering the immigration check area, where passengers are required to pass through e-gates. The errant traveller was finally stopped by an airline's ground staff just before the boarding gate when he couldn't produce a ticket and handed him over to the CISF.

The CISF has asked the Mumbai airport, managed by Adani Group, to ensure more e-gates at the entrance of the building. ANI

While admitting its fault for allowing the ticket-less person to enter the main building, the CISF official also blamed the Mumbai airport for the lapse as the e-gates inside the passenger building are manned by private security agency (PSA) personnel. He also said that while the manufacturers promise that e-gates will sound an alarm if more than one passenger passes through it at a time (also known as tailgating), there was no alarm triggered.

The CISF has now asked the Mumbai airport, managed by Adani Airport Holding Limited, to ensure more e-gates at the entrance of the terminal building and improve e-gates so that there is an alarm in case of tailgating or by reducing the duration for which the gates open after a passenger scans the boarding pass, which is currently at three seconds. The Mumbai airport declined to comment.

The CISF source expressed concerns over involvement of multiple agencies for security inside an airport, which he said posed challenges in coordination. The above quoted official though said that it was not an issue of coordination, but failure on part of different agencies.

At the main entry gate, the CISF are responsible for checking the identity and boarding pass of passengers; e-gates manned by PSAs allow entry to the pre-embarkation security area and immigration area; and finally airline ground staff verify the boarding pass before allowing passengers to enter the boarding gate and exit the passenger building.

The National Civil Aviation Policy released in 2016 said that the "government will encourage use of private security agencies at airports for non-core security functions which will be decided in consultation with MHA". The aim was to allow airports to rationalise their cost on CISF deployment following unpaid bills raised by the security agency.

An order was issued in September 2022 to deploy private security guards at airports for non-core functions such as segregation of passengers at departure and arrival gates, access control/document check in security hold areas, and access to visitor gallery.

CHARLESTON

Trump vows to crush Haley as Republican race heads south

AP

Donald Trump and Nikki Haley face off today in the Republican primary in South Carolina, with the former President expected to win in Haley's home state. She was a popular Governor of the State before becoming Trump's UN Ambassador, but Trump is backed by the party and nearly two-thirds of voters in opinion polling. AFP

BEIJING

At least 15 killed, 44 injured in fire in residential tower in Nanjing

AFP

At least 15 persons were killed and 44 injured in a fire at a residential building in eastern China's Nanjing. The fire broke out early on Friday morning in Yuhuatai district, 260 km from Shanghai, with a preliminary investigation suggesting the blaze started on the building's first floor, where electric bikes had been placed. AFP

VIENNA

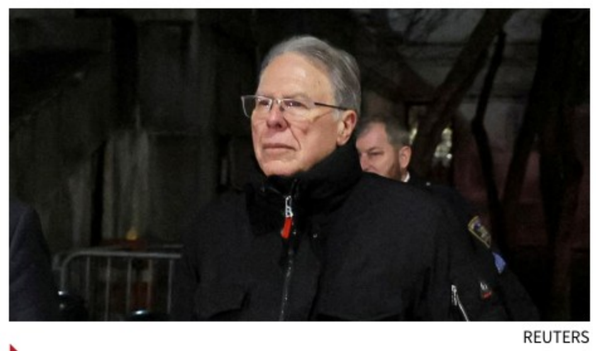
Five women killed in Vienna in a day, including three in a brothel

AFP

Austrian authorities were on Saturday investigating the killings of five women in the capital Vienna within a single day, including three found brutally stabbed to death in a brothel. A 27-year-old man still carrying a knife, believed to be the murder weapon, was arrested nearby on suspicion of committing the murders, the police said. AFP

NEW YORK

New York jury finds former gun lobby chief liable for corruption



REUTERS

A jury in New York found former NRA gun lobby chief Wayne LaPierre liable for corruptly mismanaging the organisation. He faced a civil trial where he was accused of using the National Rifle Association as a personal piggy bank and was found by the jury to have cost the body $5.4 million because of his misconduct. AFP

Kin of troops fighting in Ukraine hold protest

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

The Russian police on Saturday detained at least four persons, including reporters, at a weekly protest outside the Kremlin by the wives of mobilised soldiers fighting in Ukraine.

The wives of mobilised soldiers have staged rare protests in Moscow demanding their spouses be brought home from Ukraine.

A video published by SOTA, an independent media outlet, showed police detaining two people wearing yellow vests with "Press" written on them and two others.

Earlier this month, the police detained a group of around 20 reporters at the same protest, warning media oulets against covering the demonstrations.

Saturday's arrests came on the second anniversary of the launch of Moscow's Ukraine offensive.

Kyiv hosts Western leaders on second war anniversary

G-7 to meet virtually with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to adopt a joint resolution on Ukraine; Britain pledges to donate an additional £8.5 million worth of humanitarian aid to Kyiv

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed Western leaders to Kyiv on Saturday to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, as Ukrainian forces run low on ammunition and weaponry and foreign aid hangs in the balance.

Mr. Zelenskyy posted a video from the Hostomel airfield together with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as well as the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"Two years ago, here, we met enemy landing forces with fire; two years later, we meet our friends and our partners here," Mr. Zelenskyy said at the airport just outside of Kyiv.

Team work: Justin Trudeau, Giorgia Meloni, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ursula von der Leyen and Alexander De Croo in Kyiv on Saturday. AP

The Western leaders arrived shortly after a Russian drone attack struck a residential building in the southern city of Odesa, killing at least one person. Three women also sustained severe burns in the attack on Friday evening.

Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven leading economies, announced that the G-7 will meet virtually on Saturday with Mr. Zelenskyy and would adopt a joint statement on Ukraine.

"More than ever we stand firmly by Ukraine. Financially, economically, militarily, morally. Until the country is finally free," Ms. von der Leyen said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

On the front line in the eastern Donetsk region, Ukrainian soldiers pleaded for ammunition.

In a message on the war's second anniversary, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces, thanked Ukrainian soldiers for their sacrifices and Western allies for their support.

Earlier this month, Mr. Zelenskyy fired top military commander Valerii Zaluzhnyi and replaced him with Syrskyi, marking the most significant shakeup of top brass since the full-scale invasion.

Meanwhile, Britain has pledged an additional £8.5 million ($10.8 million) of humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Navalny's body released to mother a week after his death in Arctic prison colony

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

The body of late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been handed to his mother, more than a week after he died in an Arctic prison colony, his spokesperson said on Saturday.

Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most vocal critic, died on February 16 in one of Russia's toughest prisons in northern Siberia, where he was serving a 19-year sentence on charges widely seen as political retribution for his opposition.

"Alexei's body was handed over to his mother. Many thanks to all those who demanded this with us," Navalny spokesperson Kira Yarmysh said on X.

For the past week, Russian authorities had refused to give Lyudmila Navalnaya custody of her son's body, after she travelled to the town of Salekhard in the Yamalo-Nenets region, the nearest settlement to the prison colony where Navalny died.

In memoriam: Women lay flowers to pay tribute to Alexei Navalny at a monument in Moscow on Saturday. AP

Navalny's team on Friday said they had filed a lawsuit to obtain the body, alleging that investigators had threatened to bury him on the prison grounds if his mother did not agree to a "secret" funeral.

Yarmysh said plans for the funeral were still unclear. "Lyudmila Ivanovna is still in Salekhard. The funeral is still pending. We do not know if the authorities will interfere to carry it out as the family wants and as Alexei deserves," she said.

His team said previously the Kremlin was trying to block a public funeral, which could turn into a show of support for Navalny's movement and his opposition to Putin.

Strikes kill dozens in Gaza as Israel, Hamas seek ceasefire deal

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Dozens of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been killed in the latest Israeli strikes, the Hamas-run territory's Health Ministry said on February 24, after Israel's spy chief joined talks in Paris seeking to unblock negotiations on a truce.

The talks come after a plan for a post-war Gaza unveiled by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew criticism from key ally the United States, and was rejected by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Deepening fears

The talks also come alongside deepening fears for Gaza's civilians desperate for food. The United Nations' main aid body for Palestinians, UNRWA, said Gazans were "in extreme peril while the world watches".

Gaza's Health Ministry said that a two-month-old baby died of 'malnutrition' in the Jabalia refugee camp

Hamas said on February 24 that Israeli forces had launched more than 70 strikes on civilian homes in Gazan cities including Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis and Rafah over the previous 24 hours.

Israel's military said it was "intensifying the operations" in western Khan Younis using tanks, close-range fire and aircraft.

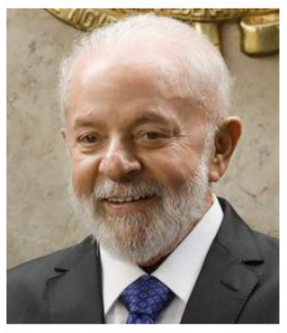
Gaza's Health Ministry said a two-month-old baby identified as Mahmud Fatuh had died of "malnutrition" in the Jabalia refugee camp.

Brazil's Lula accuses Israel of genocide in Gaza, doubling down after earlier uproar

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva alleged that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians, doubling down on harsh rhetoric after stirring controversy a week earlier by comparing Israel's military offensive in Gaza to the Nazi Holocaust.

Israel has vehemently pushed back against genocide claims, saying its war is targeting the militant group Hamas, not the Palestinian people. It has held Hamas responsible for civilian deaths, arguing that the group operates from civilian areas. The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Saturday that the bodies of 92 Palestinians killed in Israeli bombardments were brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours, raising the overall toll in nearly five months of war to 29,606. The total number of wounded rose to nearly 70,000.



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

The Ministry's death toll does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, but it has said two-thirds of those killed were children and women. Israel says its troops have killed more than 10,000 Hamas fighters.

Israel declared war after the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel in which militants killed about 1,200 people and took some 250 hostages. More than 100 hostages remain in captivity in Gaza.

Lula wrote on X that he would not give up his "dignity for falsehood," an apparent reference to calls for him to retract comments comparing Israel's conduct in Gaza to the Nazi Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews perished during the Second World War. "What the Israeli government is doing is not war, it is genocide," he wrote on Saturday. "Children and women are being murdered."

In response to Mr. Lula's initial comments, Israel declared him a persona non grata, summoned Brazil's Ambassador and demanded an apology. In retaliation, Mr. Lula recalled Brazil's Ambassador to Israel for consultations.

U.S. downs three Houthi drones, strikes anti-ship missiles

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

American forces shot down three attack drones near commercial ships in the Red Sea on February 23 and destroyed seven anti-ship cruise missiles positioned on land, the U.S. military said.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis have been targeting shipping for months and their attacks have persisted despite repeated American and British strikes aimed at degrading the rebels' ability to threaten a vital global trade route.

Early on Friday, U.S. forces "shot down three Houthi one-way attack [drones] near several commercial ships operating in the Red Sea. There was no damage to any ships," the Central Command (CENTCOM) said.

In a statement later in the day, CENTCOM said US forces destroyed "seven Iranian-backed Houthi mobile anti-ship cruise missiles that were prepared to launch towards the Red Sea."

It said those strikes , carried out between 12:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. were made in self-defence.

"CENTCOM forces identified these missiles in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and determined that they presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and to the U.S. Navy ships in the region," it said in a statement.

The day prior, American forces struck four Houthi drones as well as two anti-ship cruise missiles, CENTCOM said, adding that the weapons "were prepared to launch from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen towards the Red Sea."

The Houthis began attacking Red Sea shipping in November, saying they were hitting Israel-linked vessels in support of Palestinians in Gaza, which has been ravaged by the Israel-Hamas war.

U.S. and U.K. forces responded with strikes against the Houthis, who have since declared American and British interests to be legitimate targets as well.

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4, Block-B, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi – 110 002
Website: www.spa.ac.in

ADMISSION FOR THE SESSION - 2024-25

A. Ph. D. PROGRAMME (FULL TIME & PART TIME):
The admission forms of Ph.D. Programme are available throughout the year on the website of the School but the candidates shall be admitted twice in a year. The application form must be submitted along with photocopy of receipt, after making online payment – 1. Through website of SPA, New Delhi <**www.spa.ac.in**>, 2. Through SBI Collect of Rs.2,500 **(Non Refundable)** for Indian Nationals and **US$ 300 (Non Refundable)** for foreign nationals/NRI/PIO/OCI. For further details please visit our website.

B. MASTER'S PROGRAMMES:
Two Years (Full Time only)
1. **Master of Architecture (Architectural Conservation)**
2. **Master of Architecture (Urban Design)**
3. **Master of Architecture (Landscape Architecture)**
4. **Master of Building Engineering and Management**
5. **Master of Design (Industrial Design)**
6. **Master of Planning (Environmental Planning)**
7. **Master of Planning (Housing)**
8. **Master of Planning (Regional Planning)**
9. **Master of Planning (Transport Planning)**
10. **Master of Planning (Urban Planning)**

ELIGIBILITY: May be checked on the SPA, New Delhi website (**www.spa.ac.in**) under tab **ADMISSION 2024-25.**

SELECTION CRITERIA :
Shortlisted/Eligible candidates will be notified on the website of SPA and they will be required to appear before the selection committee for admission for interview in person (offline mode only).
1. Performance in Qualifying Examinations;
2. Valid GATE/CEED/UGC NET Score
3. Portfolio of Work/ Thesis/ Project
4. Interview
5. Statement of Purpose (description of the interest and motivation for the chosen study)
6. Work experience, if any, after attaining the eligibility qualification.

Based on the performance in the interview, performance in the above mentioned criteria, merit list of the selected candidates will be uploaded on the SPA, New Delhi website (**www.spa.ac.in**) under Tab **ADMISSION 2024-25**.

APPLICATION FORM (PG PROGRAMMES):
Eligible candidates may submit Application online through the department wise link provided on School's website **www.spa.ac.in along with requisite self attested documents to be uploaded. Applicant can APPLY in multiple programme of his/her choice subject to the eligibility of that programme.**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS & APPLICATION FEE:
Application fee for PG programme is **Rs.2,500 (Non Refundable)** for Indian Nationals and **US$ 300 (Non Refundable)** for Foreign National/NRI/PIO/OCI to be paid **online** : 1 Through website of SPA, New Delhi **www.spa.ac.in** 2. Through SBI Collect. The School reserves the right to reject/cancel any application without assigning any reason to the applicant.

The applicant applying in more than one programme will have to pay the application fee for each programme separately.
In case all the seats are not filled, SPA, ND reserves the right to have subsequent rounds for admission. The School will release up to four selection list or as deemed necessary subject to availability of eligible waitlisted candidates and vacant seats. Necessary efforts will be made to fill remaining vacant seats as per the decision of the Competent Authority.

Admission to Post Graduate courses against Kashmiri Migrant Reserved Seats : 04 seats will be reserved over and above the total number of PG seats for Wards of Kashmiri Migrants / Kashmiri Pandits / Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non–Migrants) living in Kashmir Valley.

PG SCHOLARSHIPS: The scholarships to GATE and CEED (applicable only for Industrial Design course) qualified candidates will be paid to those who have valid score card.

C. BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES
Admission to Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Planning will be made through JEE (Main) 2024 by NTA (National Testing Agency).

FN/NRI/PIO/OCI(BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES):
Admission of Foreign National/Non Resident Indian and Person of Indian Origin is made through **DASA**. Candidates desirous for admission in Bachelor's Programme may visit **DASA website**.
As per COA guidelines, students admitted under B.Arch. Course without clearing COA approved aptitude test in Architecture will not be eligible for Registration with COA.

RESERVATION OF SEATS:
Reservations will be applicable as per rules of the Government of India. For details about seat allocations, please visit our website (**www.spa.ac.in**).

QUERIES: Any queries may be addressed by e-mail ONLY at **admission@spa.ac.in or Helpline no 8527738564 (10 am to 5 pm on all working days)**.

RESULT AWAITED:
Candidates whose final year results are still awaited can also apply, but must submit the final marks by 31 August 2024, failing which his/her admission in PG courses will stand cancelled without further intimation.

HOSTEL:
SPA, New Delhi has limited hostel accommodation and is NOT guaranteed for all. Candidates, may have to make their own accommodation arrangements.

NOTE:
Candidates are advised to visit the School website frequently for admission updates. Any dispute arising at any stage will be limited to jurisdiction of the courts of Delhi only.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR POST GRADUATE ADMISSIONS 2024-25

1	Application forms available on website of the School	Tue 27 Feb, 2024
2	Last date of receipt of applications for PG courses	Wed 27 Mar, 2024
3	Display of list of eligible candidates on SPA, New Delhi website	Wed 10 Apr, 2024
4	PG admission interviews in person (OFFLINE MODE ONLY)	Mon 15 Apr, 2024 to Fri 19 Apr, 2024
5	Display of the First Selection List on SPA, New Delhi website	Wed 08 May, 2024
6	Arrival of provisionally Admitted Candidates at SPA, New Delhi for Physical Documents Verification	Thu 25 Jul, 2024 to Sat 27 Jul, 2024
7	Closure of Admission	Mon 22 Jul, 2024
8	Start of Academic Session	Mon 29 July, 2024
9	Registration in respective Departments & Orientation Programme	Mon 29 July, 2024

For details, please visit our website www.spa.ac.in
Ragging is completely banned in all the campuses of the School

Prehistoric case of Edwards syndrome found for the first time

The Hindu Bureau

Researchers have reported chromosomal disorders discovered from prehistoric skeletal remains, dating up to approximately 5,500 years old – including six cases of Down syndrome and one case of Edwards syndrome. According to the authors of a paper published in the journal *Nature Communications*, the findings may represent the first time Edwards syndrome has been identified from historic or prehistoric remains.

Individuals with chromosomal trisomy carry three copies of a chromosome in their cells, instead of two. Trisomy of chromosomes number 21 or 18 results in Down syndrome and Edwards syndrome, respectively. There have only been a few documented cases of Down syndrome in ancient individuals, largely owing to difficulties in identifying genetic disorders without modern techniques for analysing ancient DNA samples. How certain ancient societies were affected by and responded to genetic disorders remains elusive.

Dr. Adam Rohrlach from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany and others screened almost 10,000 genomes from ancient human skeletal remains from either Ireland, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain or Finland for chromosomal trisomies and identified six cases of Down syndrome and one case of Edwards syndrome. These individuals, mostly died either before or shortly after birth. Some of the cases were particularly ancient; two were from as far back as the Bronze Age (about 2,700 BCE) and one from the Neolithic period (about 3,500 BCE).

"When skeletal preservation and completeness was sufficient, we record all observed pathological lesions, and match these to osteological markers which are consistent with a diagnosis of the trisomy," they write.

"Three cases of trisomy 21 [Down syndrome], and the case of trisomy 18 [Edwards syndrome] were detected in two contemporaneous sites in early Iron Age Spain (800-400 BCE), potentially suggesting a higher frequency of burials of trisomy carriers in those societies," they write.

The authors note that all individuals appear to have been cared for after death through various rituals indicating recognition of them as part of their communities, and in a few cases were given exceptional burials or elaborate grave goods. For example, the individual buried in Early Iron Age Navarra, Spain, was buried with bronze rings, and a Mediterranean seashell, and surrounded by the remains of three sheep and/or goats.

Kerala takes a pioneering step to curb antimicrobial resistance

While it is highly commendable that Kerala is implementing the H1 rule to rein in antimicrobial resistance, it is unlikely to have a significant impact in the immediate future

Abdul Ghafur

Mandatory: A prescription is required even for first-line antibiotics

No prescription, no antibiotics

Kerala's Operation AMRITH prohibits over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a prescription

- Kerala has implemented the 2011 H1 rule that prohibits OTC sales of all classes of antibiotics
- Kerala's high doctor-patient ratio even in villages may help in enforcing the H1 rule
- Over 50-70% of antibiotic prescriptions by doctors are deemed unnecessary and irrational
- Reducing the incidence of hospital-acquired infections will sharply and quickly reduce the demand for antibiotics
- All hospitals should be made to report rates of hospital-acquired infections to the State government
- Rationalising antibiotic use in hospitals, and banning growth-promotional use of antibiotics in poultry and fish farms, and agriculture will have a big impact
- Curbing antimicrobial resistance requires a multipronged approach. Enforcing the OTC regulation alone will not be sufficient

In 2011, the Indian government introduced the H1 rule to prohibit the over-the-counter (OTC) sales of antibiotics without a prescription, responding to the growing concern over antimicrobial resistance (AMR). However, due to the healthcare system's heterogeneity across the country, the implementation of this rule faced significant challenges. In 2013, following the Chennai Declaration document and initiative by medical societies in India, the Indian government modified the rule to limit the OTC restriction to second and third-line antibiotics, allowing the sale of first-line antibiotics without a prescription. This modification was aimed to ensure that life-saving antibiotics remained accessible to the public, especially in remote areas of the country where doctors might not be readily available. Despite a decade passing since the rule's announcement, no State government had adopted it until Kerala recently initiated Operation AMRITH (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health). This programme enforces the original H1 rule, mandating a doctor's prescription for acquiring any class of antibiotics.

Kerala's high doctor-patient ratio, even in villages, facilitates the enforcement of this rule. Also, the high literacy rate in the State is poised to contribute significantly to the efficient implementation of the rule. An informed populace is more likely to understand the importance of regulations like these and adhere to them, facilitating smoother execution and compliance. While it is highly commendable that Kerala is implementing the H1 rule to rein in AMR, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on drug-resistant infections in the immediate future. The effects of this initiative may take several years, if not a decade, to manifest. However, it will foster a culture of respecting antibiotics and encourage further actions to combat AMR.

It is critical to acknowledge that over 50-70% of antibiotic prescriptions by doctors are deemed unnecessary and irrational. One of the main reasons for unnecessary antibiotic usage is the unavailability of laboratory facilities to make a correct diagnosis of bacterial infections. Even if they are available, these tests are more expensive than a course of antibiotics. Enhancing laboratory facilities for accurate infection diagnosis, especially with affordable rapid diagnostic tests to determine the necessity of antibiotics, is therefore vital. The other main reason is that patients wrongly believe that antibiotics is a quick remedy for a fever episode of any cause. Educating patients about the limitations of antibiotics and discouraging them from pressuring doctors for unnecessary prescriptions is vital.

What is even more important is that Kerala demands hospitals to disclose the incidence of hospital-acquired infections. Antimicrobial resistance is a socioeconomic problem, and combating it requires measures to improve public health infrastructure, sanitation facilities, and governance in order to decrease the transmission of infections and, therefore, the dependence on antibiotics. The influence of these factors on antimicrobial resistance rates is typically greater than that of the total volume of antibiotics used.

To reduce the spread, healthcare facilities must follow the correct standards for infection prevention. There must be a system where all hospitals report rates of hospital-acquired infections to the State government. Ideally, the data should be made public. Currently, all NABH hospitals collect this data every month and take measures to reduce hospital-acquired infections. However, it is crucial that all hospitals follow suit and share the data with the State. There will be immediate long-term benefits in lowering AMR-related fatalities if measures to reduce hospital-acquired infections are successfully implemented.

Other essential measures, including rationalising antibiotic use in hospitals, and banning the growth-promotional use of antibiotics in poultry farms, fish farms, and agriculture based on existing rules, are of paramount importance. Additionally, Kerala will do well if it supports and promotes the development of new antibiotics, diagnostics, and vaccines by entrepreneurs. Karnataka and Maharashtra-based startups have achieved remarkable progress in this domain. Startups based on novel service delivery models may help us make better use of our human resources when it comes to antibiotic stewardship and infection prevention.

While enforcing the OTC regulation is a welcome step, curbing antimicrobial resistance requires a multipronged approach, including reformations to physicians' prescribing practices and mandating that hospitals report healthcare-associated infection rates. Strictly enforcing the OTC regulation without addressing the other issues, which are major drivers of antimicrobial resistance, may not help the cause. Enforcing the H1 rule is a relatively easy goal. The real challenge will be tackling the major drivers of AMR.

(Abdul Ghafur is coordinator, Chennai Declaration on AMR, and consultant in infectious diseases, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai)

76% of TB patients paid for nutritional support

R. Prasad

If in 2022 only 1.6 million (66%) of the 2.4 million notified TB cases received at least one month's payment of ₹500 under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana direct benefit transfer programme for nutritional support as per the India TB report 2023, a study that analysed the data of nine States found that in 2022 76.1% of TB patients received at least one month's payment, up from 56.9% in 2018. Though the time taken to receive the first payment has reduced since 2018, more than 50% of patients had to wait for over three months in 2022 to receive the first instalment. The study which analysed the data from 2018 to 2022 of nine randomly selected States – Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Meghalaya – was published recently in the journal *BMC Public Health*. The study was conducted by researchers at the Chennai-based National Institute of Epidemiology.

The States were classified as high, medium and low based on the overall performance of the NTEP in the given State. States with a TB score of over 80 were grouped under high, while those with a TB score between 60 and 80 were classified as medium, and States with a score of less than 60 were clubbed under low. Three States from each category were randomly selected. Delhi, Rajasthan and Bihar had TB scores less than 60, while Uttarakhand, Telangana and Tamil Nadu had medium TB scores, and Meghalaya, Odisha and Gujarat had high TB scores of over 80.

Improving numbers: The percentage of TB patients in nine States who received at least one instalment of ₹500 increased from 57% in 2018 to 76% in 2022. GETTY IMAGES

Longer delays

In 2022, Delhi (67.2%) followed by Tamil Nadu (45.3%) and Gujarat (45.2%) recorded the most improvement in cash disbursement at the end of five years. Odisha and Uttarakhand, which had a high TB score of 85.1% and 72.9% respectively in 2018, reported a further 10% increase in performance in 2022.

If the median time to receive the first instalment was 200 days in 2018, it was reduced to 91 days in 2022. TB patients in Odisha and Tamil Nadu experienced the shortest delay of 63 and 68 days, respectively, in receiving the first instalment, while TB patients in Delhi experienced the longest delay of 136 days. TB patients from the private sector experienced a longer waiting time of about 107 days. Similarly, HIV-reactive (either HIV positive or false positive), those with drug-resistant TB, and undetermined diabetes experienced longer delays of 103.7, 104.6 and 115.3 days, respectively.

The study notes that two-thirds of the patients with unfavourable treatment outcomes received their first instalment after the outcome was declared. The very purpose of the programme is to improve treatment outcomes by providing better nutrition thereby improving immunity, and ability to tolerate anti-TB drugs and therefore improve adherence. By delaying the disbursement till treatment failure sets in, the very purpose of the cash transfer programme for nutritional support stands defeated.

Under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana programme, ₹500 per month is credited into the account of a person with TB for the duration of treatment. Among those who received at least one instalment, the percentage of patients who received ₹3,000 or more in 2018 was 64.6%, which increased to 76.8% in 2021, and 67.5% in 2022.

SNAPSHOTS

New therapy for haemophilia stops bleeding in animals

A team of scientists has engineered nanoparticles that can treat haemophilia – a disorder in which patients lack a coagulation factor and cannot properly form blood clots leading to spontaneous bleeding – in animals by counteracting an enzyme that breaks down blood clots and whose effects last longer compared with current drugs. It has been tested in mice and a small pilot study in dogs. The nanoparticles are a stepping stone toward a long-lasting treatment to reduce bleeding in patients.

New antibacterial compound kills *Mycobacterium* in mice

Scientists have isolated an antibacterial compound that can kill *Mycobacterium abscessus*, a relative of the bacteria that cause tuberculosis, without generating any signs of bacterial drug resistance in infected mice. The safety profile and efficacy suggest that it can be used for treating people infected with *M. abscessus*, which is very hardy and frequently shrugs off standard antibiotic protocols. *M. abscessus* is growing more common worldwide and can cause severe lung infections.

Interferon gamma linked to Long COVID patients

An analysis of blood samples from 55 patients diagnosed with Long COVID has revealed that they experienced prolonged elevated levels of an anti-viral protein interferon gamma, which persisted for 180 days post-infection. This effect was induced by CD8 "killer" T cells in response to antigens present in the patients' CD14 cells. The findings highlight an immune response to SARS-CoV-2 infection associated with long COVID's debilitating symptoms.

Question Corner

Adhesive use

Did neanderthals use glue to create stone tools?

Neanderthals created stone tools held together by a multi-component adhesive, a team of scientists has discovered. The well-preserved tools showcase a technical solution broadly similar to examples of tools made by early modern humans in Africa. Its findings, which are the earliest evidence of a complex adhesive in Europe, suggest these predecessors to modern humans had a higher level of cognition and cultural development. The stone tools from Le Moustier are kept in the collection of Berlin's Museum of Prehistory and Early History and had not previously been examined in detail. The tools were rediscovered during an internal review of the collection and their scientific value was recognised. The researchers discovered traces of a mixture of ochre (over 50%) and bitumen on several stone tools. Using liquid bitumen with 55% ochre, researchers were able to produce a mixture that was sticky enough for a stone tool to remain together but without adhering to hands.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What is the SC's interim order on the Forest Act?

How are forests protected under the Act? What were the changes proposed by the Union government?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

On Monday, the Supreme Court ordered the government to continue following the all-encompassing "dictionary meaning" of forest as upheld in a 1996 Supreme Court decision in the *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad* case till a final verdict is handed out on a petition challenging the amended Forest Conservation Act of 2023. The court has also asked the government to make public, by April, a consolidated record of land deemed as forest by States and Union Territories.

What is the Forest Conservation Act?

The Forest Conservation Act, which came into force in 1980, was conceived to stop the razing of forests. An estimated four million hectares of forest land had been diverted from 1951-75 and once the Act came into force, the average annual rate of diversion dropped to about 22,000 hectares – or about a tenth – going by figures cited by the Centre to a parliamentary panel to demonstrate the effectiveness of the legislation.

However, the provisions of this legislation predominantly applied to tracts of forest land recognised as such by the Indian Forest Act, or by States in their records since 1980. Illegal timber-felling at Gudalur in Tamil Nadu led the Supreme Court to deliver the landmark *Godavarman Thirumulpad* judgment in 1996. It decreed that forests had to be protected irrespective of how they were classified and who owned them. This brought in the concept of 'deemed forests,' or forest-like tracts that weren't officially classified as such in government or revenue records but looked like them. In the 28 years that have passed since the judgment, States – based on surveys and reports by expert committees – have interpreted 'forests' differently. This is natural, given the wide variety of forests and constituent plants in India. Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, for instance, define a forest as a tract that spans a minimum of 10 hectares, is covered with naturally growing timber, fuel wood and yielding trees and, has a density of 200 trees or more per hectare. Goa defines a forest as a patch of land having at least 75% covered with forest species. Some States have no parameters at all. Because of varying definitions of deemed forest, estimates of their territorial spread in India range from 1% - 28% of India's official forest area of 80 million ha.

> The court's interim order emphasises that the 'all-encompassing dictionary meaning' of forest will continue to hold till the States and Union Territories prepare a consolidated record of forest lands

The Centre's recent attempt to amend the Forest Conservation Act was ostensibly to bring "clarity" as there were large tracts of recorded-forest land that had already been legally put to non-forestry uses, but conformed to a State's criteria of a 'deemed forest.' This posed challenges to the use and ownership of such land. Such ambiguity also bred a reluctance among private citizens to cultivate private plantations and orchards, despite their significant ecological benefits, for fear that they would be classified as 'forest' (and thus render their ownership void). India's ambitions to create a carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes, to meet its net-zero goals required forest laws to be "dynamic", and the rules sought to remove 'deemed forest,' not already recorded as such, from the ambit of protection.

What did the amendments deal with?

The amendments also put beyond the pale of protection forest land situated alongside a rail line or a road, necessary to provide access to a habitation, up to a maximum size of 0.10 hectare. Forest land situated within a distance of 100 kilometres along international borders or the Line of Control or Line of Actual Control, and which needed to be cleared to construct strategic linear projects of national importance would also be exempt from the Act. Any ten hectares in a forest, regarded necessary for use in constructing security related infrastructure or five hectares in forest land affected by 'left wing extremism' too would be bereft of protection. The government rationale is that these exemptions are necessary to facilitate basic infrastructure in tribal areas. Moreover, the proper protection and conservation of forests by local communities, the Centre argued, requires creating livelihood opportunities through the promotion of ecotourism, zoos and safaris. But critics have pointed out that such enabling provisions already exist in another Act, the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

What is the import of the SC order?

The Supreme Court's interim order implies that forests will continue to be governed as if the recent amendments of the Centre didn't exist. Most importantly, it said that States should provide and the Centre publish, reports by State-constituted expert committees on the extent of deemed forests within their territories. It also struck down schemes to constitute zoos and safari parks on forest land.

Is the Ukraine war changing world order?

Why has the war dragged on for so long? Why is Russia tilting towards Asia and the Global South? Is there a shift in the balance of power? How has Russia worked around sanctions? Has its economy been hit? What about Ukraine? Has its counteroffensives failed?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

Russia's war in Ukraine has entered its third year. What many thought on February 24, 2022 would be a swift Russian military operation against its smaller neighbour has turned out to be the largest land war in Europe since the end of the Second World War. The war has pushed Russia to turn towards Asia and the Global South in general, while the West continues to support Ukraine in its bid to push back and weaken Russia. A vast majority of countries, including India, remain neutral as the violence continues.

Did Vladimir Putin err?

There's now a consensus among defence experts – as well as reports from leaked western intelligence assessments – that President Vladimir Putin made a grave strategic miscalculation when he ordered the invasion of Europe's second largest country (after Russia), also a close ally of NATO, with less than 2,00,000 troops. Mr. Putin probably expected a quick victory, like he did in Georgia in 2008 and Crimea in 2014. But as the Russian war machine got stuck in Ukraine, the West moved in with military assistance, training and international mercenaries. After his troops were forced to pull back from Kharkiv in 2022, Mr. Putin immediately ordered a partial mobilisation. Since then, the focus of Russia's military campaign shifted from all out offence to strengthening the lines of defence with limited offensive battles. When Ukraine was preparing for a major counteroffensive, Russia kept thousands of Ukrainian troops engaged at Bakhmut in Donetsk, while at the same time building defence fortifications along the 1,000-km long frontline. Last May, the Russians took Bakhmut.

> 'The war has exposed the limits of Western power in a changing world'

Where does the war stand now?

Eight months after Ukraine's counteroffensive began, it's now evident that the campaign failed, as admitted by Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the commander of Ukrainian forces, who was fired by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier this month. Gen. Zaluzhnyi had called for a mass mobilisation, suggesting that Ukraine was facing acute shortage of fighters on the frontline. They lost many of their West-supplied weapons in the counteroffensive and are waiting for fresh supplies, but aid from the U.S. is stuck in Congress amid Republican opposition. On the other side, the Russians are on the offensive. In December, Russia claimed its first victory since the fall of Bakhmut when it captured Maryinka, in Donetsk. Earlier this month, Ukraine was forced to abandon Avdiivka, a strategically important town in Donetsk, after months-long fighting and suffering huge losses. The Russians are now advancing westward in Donetsk and piling up pressure on Ukrainian forces in Krynky, Kherson, in the south.

What is the West's strategy?

The West had taken a two-fold approach towards Ukraine. One was to provide economic and military assistance to Kyiv to keep the fight against Russia going on; and the second leg was to weaken Russia's economy and war machine through sanctions. With Ukraine's failed counteroffensive and a changing political climate in Washington with the prospect of a second Trump presidency looming, the first pillar of this policy faces uncertainty, if not absolute peril. The second pillar, sanctions, has hurt Russia badly. Western officials believe that sanctions have deprived Russia of over $430 billion in revenue it would otherwise have gained since the war began.

How have the sanctions affected Russia?

Russia has found several ways to work around sanctions and keep its economy going. When Europe cut energy sales, Russia offered discounted crude oil to big growing economies such as China, India and Brazil. It amassed a ghost fleet of ships to keep sending oil to its new markets without relying on western shipping companies and insurers. It set up shell companies and private corporations operating in its neighbourhood (say Armenia or Turkey) to import dual use technologies which were re-exported to Russia to be used in defence production. China, the world's second largest economy, ramped up its financial and trade ties with Russia, including the export of dual use technologies. Russia moved away from the dollar to other currencies, mainly the Chinese yuan, for trade, and boosted defence and public spending at home (its defence budget was raised by nearly 70% this year). It also strengthened ties with Iran and North Korea, which were also reeling under American sanctions, and imported weapons from them, ranging from drones to cruise missiles and ammunition.

Two years after the war started, despite sanctions, both Russia's energy industry and its military industrial complex remain vibrant. Russia earned $15.6 billion from its oil exports alone in January, up from $11.8 billion last summer, according to the International Energy Agency. The Russian Defence Ministry claims that it manufactured 1,530 tanks and 2,518 armoured vehicles in 2023.

How is the war transforming Russia?

It doesn't mean that everything is going well for Mr. Putin and his compatriots. Since the war began, two countries in its neighbourhood, Sweden and Finland, have joined NATO, expanding the alliance's border with Russia. Mr. Putin spent years, after coming to power, to build strong economic ties with Europe, which are now in tatters. Russia's hold on its immediate neighbourhood is also loosening, which was evident in tensions with Armenia and the latter's decision to freeze participation in the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Russia is also becoming dependent on China, even though the Kremlin is careful not to upset the sensitivity of New Delhi.

Internally, the Russian state is tightening its control over society and is clamping down on any criticism of the war. The Prigozhin rebellion of last year exposed chinks in the armour of the state Mr. Putin has built. The death of Alexei Navalny, the most vocal critic of President Putin in Russia, in a remote Arctic prison on February 16 endorses criticism of the way Russia handles dissent. If post-Soviet Russia appeared to be a "managed democracy", post-war Russia is sliding into a tightly held authoritarian state.

What does it mean for the world?

The Western strategy of empowering Ukraine through aid and weakening Russia through sanctions doesn't seem to have worked. The war has also exposed the limits of Western power in a changing world – for sanctions to be effective, the trans-Atlantic alliance now needs the support of other major economies such as China and India. While Russia has constantly found ways to work around sanctions, it has also suffered huge casualties and will have to fight the long term effects of the sanctions. If there is one great power that stays relatively unscathed by this chaos, it is China. When Beijing looks at the conflict, it sees both the West and Russia stuck in Ukraine, forcing the latter to pivot to Asia, redrawing the global balance of power.

The Global South's stand on Israel's war in Gaza

What is the International Court of Justice hearing? Why has it divided the West and other countries? Are Brazil and South Africa taking the lead in the Global South in seeking judicial accountability for Israel's actions? What is India's stand?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

Israel's war in Gaza in retaliation for the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas took centre-stage at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) this week again, as the UN General Assembly raised the question of illegal Israeli settlements in the court, with public hearings that will end on Monday. The hearings sparked a further divide between Western countries, many of whom sought to defend Israel's bombardment of Gaza as the "right to self-defence", and were ranged against Global South countries, most of whom had supported South Africa's bid to have the ICJ try Israel for "war-crimes" for its actions. The latest hearings opened in the backdrop of a major rift between Brazil and Israel.

What are the ICJ hearings about?

The current hearings of the ICJ at the Peace Palace in The Hague (The Netherlands) are not a consequence of the Israel-Hamas conflict of the past few months, but pre-date them. In December 2022, the UN General Assembly had asked the court for an "advisory opinion" on two specific questions pertaining to Israeli actions in the past: first, what are the "legal consequences" for Israel over its policy of "occupations, settlement and annexation" of Palestinian territories since the 1967 war, and attempts to change the demographic status of Jerusalem, and second, what legal consequences arise for all other states and the United Nations over Israel's "discriminatory" policies towards Palestinians. As many as 52 states and three international organisations gave written and oral comments during the hearings scheduled from February 19-26, led by Palestine, and followed by South Africa.

> Unlike the rest of the Global South, India has chosen to keep public comments on the Israel-Palestine crisis to a minimum

Firm stand: Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki, on the day of a public hearing by ICJ, in The Hague, The Netherlands on February 19. REUTERS

Who were the key speakers and what have they said so far?

While a majority of the speakers at the hearings are from the Global South led by Brazil and South Africa, all P-5 members of the UN Security council submitted comments, although Israel chose not to participate. India was not among the speakers, but its neighbours, Pakistan and Bangladesh were strongly critical of Israel's actions. Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki gave a three-hour high-powered submission in which he said Israeli governments had left only three choices for Palestinians: "displacement, subjugation or death", calling their actions: "ethnic cleansing, apartheid or genocide." The U.S., U.K. and allies began submissions with condemnations of the October 7 attack in which more than 1,100 were killed in Israel. Ireland, however, has diverged quite dramatically from the West and the European Union in its criticism of Israel's actions, countering arguments on the "right to self-defence" by saying that international law "limits the use of force in self-defence to no more than what is necessary and proportionate". More than 29,000 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel's bombardment began. While the ICJ case pertains to events pre-2022, it was clear that the destruction of nearly half of all structures in Gaza in four months are precipitating concerns that Israel plans to occupy and resettle that territory as well. Brazil's ambassador in particular called for the ICJ to pronounce Israel's actions of confiscating land, demolishing Palestinian homes, establishing Israeli settlements, and constructing the West Bank barrier wall as illegal.

Why have Brazil and Israel drawn daggers?

While Brazil and Israel have had close relations in the past, Brazil's President Lula da Silva has been openly critical of "Zionism" in the past. For instance, he refused to visit the grave of Theodor Herzl during a visit to Jerusalem in 2010. Last week, Israel declared Mr. Lula a "persona non grata" who won't be allowed to enter the country after he compared Israel's bombardment of Palestinians to the Holocaust in Nazi Germany in which six million Jewish people were killed. Brazil has since recalled its ambassador to Israel.

What is India's stand?

Despite its abstention in one vote calling for a ceasefire in October 2023, India has consistently voted in favour of UN resolutions that are critical of Israel's occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory. Unlike the rest of the Global South, however, the Modi government has chosen to keep public comments on the issue to a minimum, and the decision not to speak at the ICJ is in line with that. Several factors complicate clarity on the Indian position. On the one hand, there is an expectation from the Arab world, particularly from close partners such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia, for India to stand with Palestine. Qatar, for instance, may have expectations after the Prime Minister's visit this month to thank the Emir for releasing eight Indian naval officers. This may explain why New Delhi has spoken strongly about zero tolerance for the October 7 terror attacks, but has not designated Hamas as a terror group so far.

On the other hand, there is India's close defence and surveillance equipment cooperation with Israel. While India has been buying defence equipment from Israel, recently, it shipped drones made by Adani-Elbit Advanced Systems in Hyderabad to help Israeli operations. In addition, the government has green-lighted the recruitment of tens of thousands of Indian workers by Israeli companies dealing with labour shortages due to the expulsion of Palestinians from jobs post October 7 attacks. However, the area of greatest concern for Indian diplomacy will come if it is seen as an outlier to the Global South that India seeks leadership of, which has been clearly critical of Israel's actions, and is increasingly speaking in one voice for international judicial accountability for them.

Return of the survivor

Asif Ali Zardari

The former President, who took the reins of the PPP after his wife and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, could well be Pakistan's next President after his party struck a coalition agreement with the military-backed PML-N

Kallol Bhattacherjee

In the blood-smeared history of Pakistani politics, top leaders rarely emerge from prison unscathed. Deposed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was imprisoned and hanged in Rawalpindi district jail. His daughter Benazir Bhutto was in jail and had to leave the country, seeking medical treatment. She came back and got assassinated. Imran Khan is currently in jail and only future will tell how his story will unfold.

But there is one leader who emerged stronger after multiple jail terms – Asif Ali Zardari, the undisputed leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the current head of the Zardari-Bhutto dynasty.

With a bit of help from destiny, Mr. Zardari, who had spent 11 years in jail in the past, could be the next President of the country as his party has sealed a deal with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which will hold the post of Prime Minister. This is not the first time Mr. Zardari's destiny is being changed dramatically. On a wintry evening on December 27, 2007, an assassin's bullet ended the life of Benazir Bhutto. Within hours, Mr. Zardari, who was then in Dubai with their three children, Bilawal, Bakhtawar and Asifa, was on a flight to Pakistan.

At a meeting, of the central executive of the PPP in Naudero, Sindh, Mr. Zardari asked son Bilawal to read a 'political will' from Benazir that declared that "my husband Asif Ali Zardari" would lead the party in her absence. Bilawal was too young at 19 to inherit her legacy and, therefore, Mr. Zardari would take the reins. No one had heard of such a political will, not even Benazir's old secretary Naheed Khan. Yet, the rule of Mr. Zardari was established over the PPP.

Mr. Zardari, a polo player from a family that was known for owning the Bambino cinema of Karachi, came into national limelight after his 1987 wedding to the then 'daughter of the east' Benazir Bhutto. The wedding was a memorable affair and was attended by political guests from different parts of South Asia and Europe.

Within months, the hands of destiny would alter the life of the couple when Gen. Zia ul Haq's aircraft, Pak-1, mysteriously crashed in Bahawalpur, catapulting Benazir to her first prime ministerial stint. Benazir's first (1988-'90) and second (1993-'96) tenures as PM were tumultuous as they coincided with the end of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, end of the Cold War and the intensification of the Kashmir crisis and cross-border terrorism in South Asia.

Two murders

In 1996, two murders took place that would shape the course of the Bhutto-Zardari destinies. On September 20, Murtaza Bhutto, elder brother of Benazir, was shot dead outside 70 Clifton, the residence where Zulfikar Ali Bhutto once lived. During the 1980s, the elder brother had led an international terrorist organisation called Al Zulfikar and lived for years in Syria and Libya, seeking revenge against Gen. Zia. The youngest of the Bhuttos, Shahnawaz, a leading commander of Al Zulfikar, was allegedly murdered in Nice, France, in 1985.

When Benazir became PM in 1988, Murtaza felt disinherited and developed a visceral dislike for his brother-in-law. On December 16, 1996, Mr. Zardari and Murtaza ended up flying in the same aircraft from Islamabad to Karachi. It was reported later that Murtaza's body guards "kept glaring" at Mr. Zardari throughout the flight. That experience so terrified Mr. Zardari that instead of going to his house, he went to his father Hakim Ali Zardari's house to seek safety. Two days later, Mr. Zardari, also known as 'Mr 10 Percent' because of corruption allegations, held a meeting with top officials to complain about Murtaza, which added to the allegations of his complicity in the murder of Murtaza.

The killings marked the beginning of the end of Benazir's second term, which was replaced by a caretaker government in November 1996, paving the way for the 1997 election after which Nawaz Sharif became PM. Mr. Zardari first went to jail in 1990 on corruption charges and then again after the second term of Benazir, and

ILLUSTRATIONS: SOUMYADIP SINHA

was released in 2004 . Mr. Zardari carved a political niche for himself within the party, starting with 1990 when he was elected to the National Assembly (NA) for the first time. He contested and won from jail and his release was one of the major issues for the PPP under Benazir and he later became Minister of Investment after Benazir returned to power in 1993.

As Benazir returned to Pakistan after nearly six years of exile in October 2007, Mr. Zardari gave her staff instruction to keep her safe as she was attacked within hours of her arrival. The military government of Gen. Pervez Musharraf blamed Baitullah Mehsud, leader of the Pakistani Taliban, for the attack but the evidences from the spot were allegedly cleared by authorities, creating a strong suspicion about the incident that took place on October 18, 2007. Mr. Zardari tracked his wife on live TV from Dubai and screamed orders to keep her safe. She was downstairs in the armoured bus that was specially prepared and therefore survived. On December 27, however, the assassins succeeded, prompting Mr. Zardari to take up the leadership role.

Mr. Zardari proved his survival instincts when he completed his five-year term as President of Pakistan. His tenure was jolted within months by the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and internal political tumult led by Imran Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI). Mr. Khan built his movement on the anti-American sentiment that flourished in Pakistan because of the drone attacks against Taliban and al-Qaeda hideouts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but Mr. Zardari maintained a cautious silence on the issue of U.S.-Pakistan collaboration.

Backroom player

After his presidential term was over, Mr. Zardari indulged in backroom negotiations to maintain the party unity and presented himself as a veteran who is open to reconciliation. As the Imran Khan government came to a halt after his hurried February 24, 2022 visit to Moscow that coincided with the launch of Russia's military campaign against Ukraine, Mr. Zardari once again found the playfield open for himself.

The election of 2024 has been controversial and marred by dramatic in-camera allegations of rigging. However, Pakistani politics is no stranger to rigging and Mr. Zardari himself knows it best as the election of 1997, which brought Nawaz Sharif to power, was bitterly criticised by his party at that time for alleged rigging. It remains to be seen if Imran Khan, who is in jail will, concede defeat and allow the new coalition government to start afresh, addressing the several challenges Pakistan is facing, including economic woes.

At the time of 2013 election, former Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira had asked the country to vote for reconciliation, ending the war with the Pakistani Taliban. Pakistan's present security situation is precarious as it deals with internal volatility and worsening ties with the Taliban in Kabul and Iran, with which it exchanged missiles in January. It's doubtless that in the new formation, Mr. Zardari would stay as the tallest leader. But the challenges he would face may well be the toughest of his 33-year old political career.

THE GIST

- Zardari, a polo player from a family that was known for owning the Bambino cinema of Karachi, came into national limelight after his 1987 wedding to the 'daughter of the east' Benazir Bhutto
- Zardari carved a political niche for himself within the party, starting with 1990 when he was elected to the National Assembly for the first time
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Woman of the opposition

Yulia Navalnaya

The wife of Alexei Navalny, the most prominent critic of President Putin who died in prison recently, vows to continue his fight for 'a free Russia'

Sonikka Loganathan

"The unthinkable sacrifice he made cannot be in vain," said a solemn but stoic Yulia Navalnaya in a video posted on social media, three days after the death of her husband, Russia's most prominent opposition leader, Alexei Navalny. In the eight-minute video, Ms. Yulia called on the Russian people to join her in continuing to fight for "a free Russia".

Navalny rose to prominence a decade ago, when he began blogging about alleged corruption under Russian President Vladmir Putin. His popularity, and determination evidently unsettled Russia's political establishment. Navalny was poisoned with a deadly nerve agent in 2020 and was later imprisoned, under charges of "extremism". Throughout all of this, one person remained by his side: Ms. Yulia.

She married Navalny in 2000, at the start of his political career. But Ms. Yulia never overtly expressed interest in joining politics, preferring instead to remain on the sidelines as Navalny's confidante, adviser and support system.

Ms. Yulia was born in 1976, to a scientist and a civil servant. She studied economics and worked at a bank, and then a foreign trade company. She was a

part of the Yabloko, a liberal, socially democratic party, which Navalny was also a member of till 2007. She met Navalny in 1998, when he was a young lawyer.

Although she rejected the limelight, Ms. Yulia was still a politician's wife. From his mayoral campaign in 2013, to his presidential campaign in 2018 and his imprisonment, she was there for him.

When Navalny was poisoned in 2020, it was Ms. Yulia who implored Mr. Putin to allow him to go to Germany for treatment. While at the hospital, she warded off the swarm of policemen, speaking into an aid's camera, saying, "We demand the immediate release of Aleksei, because right now in this hospital, there are more police and agents than doctors."

When Navalny was jailed on arrival after the poison attack in 2021, Ms. Yulia was detained twice, at rallies in Moscow in support of him. "Sorry for the poor quality. Very bad light in the paddy wagon," she captioned an Instagram photo. Her fierceness to support her husband exists alongside her candid love for him. Navalny and his wife exuded the energy of a power couple. When Navalny woke up from his coma, following his poisoning, he wrote a "post about love," for Ms. Yulia, who he said saved his life. Two days after his death, she posted a picture of them, captioned, "I love you." She has since flown to the U.S., to be with her daughter.

No time to rest

But, for the new de-facto opposition leader of Russia, there is no time to rest. In her video, she remained calm but firm. She said Mr. Putin "killed my husband", but vowed that she won't let him kill her husband's cause. "We should defeat Putin, his friends, the bandits in shoulder straps, the thieves and murderers who have destroyed our country," she said. "I address you with the words of Alexei, in which I firmly believe. It is not shameful to do little, it is shameful to do nothing. It is shameful to be intimidated."

Navalny's body was not immediately shown to Ms. Yulia. She says it's because Mr. Putin wanted to buy time. As the body decomposes, so does the evidence of what he allegedly did to cause his death. Navalny's mother was shown his body a week later, and authorities finally handed his body to her on Saturday. She said she was facing pressure from authorities to have a secret funeral, with no mourners.

For many Russians, Navalny was the only serious opposition leader who stood up to Mr. Putin. Despite the state's attempts to crack down on opposition, Navalny consistently kept his cause alive. Kremlin continues to deny responsibility for his death, which comes just a month before the Russian presidential elections, where Mr. Putin is set to secure a fifth term.

As Ms. Yulia steps into her new role, she knows the risks and challenges she will face. She also knows that time is of the essence in the fight for freedom. "By killing Alexei, Putin killed half of me, half of my heart, half of my soul. But I still have the other half. And it tells me I have no right to give up."

Indira's 'third son'

Kamal Nath

The former Congress Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has ended speculations, for now, saying he has no plan to leave the party

Mehul Malpani

"Indira Gandhi's third son!" The sentence reverberated from Bhopal to New Delhi in the last few days with Madhya Pradesh politics going for a storm amid speculations that former Congress Chief Minister Kamal Nath was going to join the BJP.

The sentence, used by various Congress leaders as an emotional outreach to Mr. Nath, was a reference to the 1980 Lok Sabha elections when he was contesting from M.P.'s Chhindwara seat for the first time. In December, 1979, Indira Gandhi had come for a poll rally and had said, "He (Mr. Nath) is my third son. Please, take care of him."

Mr. Nath won the election, increasing the Congress' margin from 2,369 in 1977 to 70,131 in 1980.

Fast forward to February 17, 2024, Mr. Nath and his son, the current Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath, were in the national capital. Reports claimed that the duo was there to meet some senior BJP leaders and finalise a deal for entry into the saffron fold.

The rumours were finally dismissed after Mr. Nath held a closed-door meeting with his supporters in Delhi.

Mr. Nath's association with the Gandhi family

goes back to his time at The Doon School, Dehradun, where he forged a friendship with Indira Gandhi's younger son, the late Sanjay Gandhi, who later got him into politics.

In 1968, Mr. Nath joined the Indian Youth Congress. Old records and senior political observers recall that Mr. Nath was one of Sanjay Gandhi's few confidants who were handling things during the Emergency from 1975-77.

Sanjay Gandhi passed away in June 1980, and Indira Gandhi was killed in October 1984, but Mr. Nath's association with the Gandhi family continued. He is said to be among the very few Congressmen who have a "direct access to Sonia Gandhi".

Even amid the speculations on his leaving the party, a senior Congress leader in Bhopal had told *The Hindu*, "It's not as much about the Congress as it is about the [Gandhi] family. Even if he is upset about something, he does not need to put any kind of pressure on the leadership when he can directly go and talk to Sonia ji."

Born in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh and brought up in Kolkata, Mr. Nath does not have any roots in Madhya Pradesh but over the years, Chhindwara has become synonymous to his name and family.

Road to victory

Despite being an MP from the State, Mr. Nath was only little active in Madhya Pradesh's politics until April 2018 when he was made the Pradesh Congress Committee president, just months before the Assembly elections.

With Mr. Nath leading the party, the Congress emerged as the single largest party with 114 seats, two short of majority, and formed the government with the support of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and the independents.

Mr. Nath was chosen as the Chief Minister, despite opposition from the likes of Jyotiraditya Scindia. The government, however, was short-lived with Mr. Scindia leading a rebellion with 22 MLAs in March, 2020, and bringing the BJP back to power. The Congress leadership again posed its complete faith in Mr. Nath for the 2023 Assembly polls. This time, despite a major anti-incumbency wave, the Congress suffered a massive defeat and was reduced to 66 seats. The BJP steered back to power with 163 seats.

Days after the poll result on December 3, 2023, even though he had not been given any such indication, the Congress high-command removed Mr. Nath from the PCC chief's post, replacing him with younger Jitu Patwari. He was also blamed for the debacle at a Congress Working Committee meet. The moves were said to have upset Mr. Nath with a State BJP insider claiming that the ruling party had been in touch with the former CM ever since.

While it is unclear what role he will be given in the Congress in future, the buzz around Mr. Nath's exit appears to have settled now with him scheduled to join Rahul Gandhi's Yatra which will enter the State on March 2. A news which the State Congress leaders have been constantly publicising.

INBRIEF

SEBI using AI for probes, says whole time member

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for investigations, its whole time member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney said on Saturday. Against the backdrop of instances of manipulations in the stock market, he said the message is that abiding with the law will be more beneficial and violations will cause problems. As long as the market is transparent and no manipulation is happening, that is fine with the regulator, he noted. PTI

Pune Gas installs LPG project for Taj Group hotel in Tawang

Pune Gas on Saturday said it had completed a project involving the installation of an LPG gas bank at a Taj Group hotel in Arunachal Pradesh. Tawang is dotted with a large number of hotels and restaurants traditionally relying on fuels like LDO, furnace fuel, and coal, among others, the company said. Recognising the importance of preserving the biodiversity of this nature-centric location, Taj Vivanta decided to transition to LPG fuel, Pune Gas said. PTI

IRF calls for making seat belts mandatory in heavy vehicles

International Road Federation (IRF), a global road safety body, has urged the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to make the use of seat belts mandatory in all heavy vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses, to minimise casualties and injuries in road accidents. IRF President Emeritus K.K. Kapila said in a letter to MoRTH that there was an urgent need to provide seats belts in buses, which needed to be made mandatory. PTI

DBS Bank sees CAD narrowing to 0.8% as service exports buoy

Balance of Payments to log surplus this year, lend upside for rupee, say bank's economists; FinMin estimates the CAD at 1.3% of GDP in 2023-24

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

While the Finance Ministry this week said it expects the current account deficit (CAD) to narrow to 1.3% of GDP this fiscal after the provisional merchandise trade deficit eased to a nine-month low of $17.5 billion in January, DBS Bank economists went a step further and projected the year's CAD to come under 0.8%, citing strong services exports and declining goods import bills.

The Singapore-based bank's economists, who pointed to benign commodity prices as a key factor in the softening of import costs that helped them slash the earlier CAD projection of 1.5% of GDP, also forecast the CAD at 1.1% for the year starting in April. DBS expects the Balance of Payments (BoP) to clock a $45 billion surplus this year, after a $9 billion deficit in 2022-23, serving as a positive for the Indian rupee's trajectory.

The Finance Ministry had in its monthly bulletin for January estimated the CAD to narrow this fiscal from 2% of GDP in 2022-23, before widening marginally to 1.4% next year.

DBS expects the inclusion of Indian government bonds in global indices will boost inflows and the balance of payments surplus in 2024-25, along with a slight pick-up in investment flows. However, a slightly wider CAD would shrink the BoP surplus close to $35 billion, it said.

'Positive for currency'

"These dynamics are positive for the currency, yet the authorities will prefer to keep the Indian rupee in a predictable and stable range, limiting potential sharp upside in the rupee," DBS Bank senior economist Radhika Rao wrote in a research note on India's "favourable current account cues".

Ms. Rao reckoned that the goods trade deficit could narrow by about 10% this year to $235 billion, from a record high of $264 billion in 2022-23, while service exports were on course to notch 7% growth and hit a record high of $348 billion.

"With imports on course to slip, the [services] trade surplus is expected to jump to a record high of $171 billion in this fiscal year. This should help the full-year current account deficit to narrow to less than 1% of GDP at 0.8% of GDP. For 2024-25, we build in a slower rise in service exports and a wider goods deficit on post-election pick-up in capital imports, leaving the CAD at 1.1% of GDP," Ms. Rao wrote, while factoring in continued strong growth in overseas remittances.

The Reserve Bank of India has said it expects the CAD to be 'eminently manageable' through this year as well as in 2024-25.

QuantEco Research economists said they expect the current fiscal year's CAD at 1.3% of GDP, or $47 billion, but flagged the possibility of a downside risk owing to the turbulent disruptions to trade flows through the Red Sea.

Benign view

DBS Bank sees benign commodity prices helping soften the merchandise imports bill, thus aiding a narrowing in the CAD

- Bank's economists slash their earlier CAD projection of 1.5% of GDP
- DBS expects the Balance of Payments (BoP) to clock a $45 billion surplus this year
- Post-poll pick-up in capital imports to widen CAD next fiscal to 1.1%: DBS's Rao

Engineering exports may turn positive for 2023-24 despite weak demand: EEPC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Engineering goods exporters, who have had a difficult year thanks to weak global demand, are still hopeful of ending 2023-24 in the black, with shipments to 13 major markets growing in January.

Exports of engineering goods, which have accounted for a quarter of India's merchandise exports in recent years, rose for the second straight month in January, albeit at a slower pace of 4.2% compared to 9.8% in December. Cumulative exports so far this year now stand at $88.1 billion, just 0.2% below the $88.27 billion recorded between April 2022 and January 2023.

Exports of engineering goods rose for the second straight month in January

Last month, the value of shipments to about a dozen major markets clocked significant growth, including the United States (6%), China (15.1%), Russia (30.8%) and the UAE (3.8%). The major drivers for the growth were iron and steel products, copper products and electric machinery, with demand from South Asia and Europe also propping up volumes.

"The disruption in trade routes has hindered potential growth, but there remains optimism that by the end of the fiscal year, India will see positive growth in this sector," Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) India chairman Arun Kumar Garodia said on Saturday.

Do a case study on how govt. works: FM

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday asked the management students of BITS Pilani to undertake case studies on the five principles of the Union government's functioning with regards to governance and management of the economy, which she said needed to be highlighted.

"You should look at a case study as to how India has come out of the Covid-19 pandemic, faced two challenging wars (Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Gaza war) happening simultaneously, and also overcome the Red Sea piracy-related uncertainties to emerge as the world's fastest growing economy," she told students while inaugurating the BITS Pilani Mumbai Campus at Kalyan in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Nirmala Sitharaman

'Gemini not reliable in responding to prompts'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Under fire over AI tool Gemini's 'objectionable' response to a question on PM Narendra Modi, Google on Saturday said it had worked quickly to address the issue and conceded that the chatbot "may not always be reliable".

Google further said Gemini was built as a creativity and productivity tool and might not always be reliable, especially when it came to responding to some prompts on political topics or evolving news.

Salzer Electronics to add 'smart meter' plant in Coimbatore

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Coimbatore-based Salzer Electronics plans to add a 'smart meter' manufacturing facility in the city.

The factory will have backward integration with Salzer's existing factories that manufacture electrical components for smart meters, the electrical solutions provider said in a press release. The plant will have an annual capacity of 4 million smart energy meters that will be increased to 10 million in the second phase.

"At four million meters, we expect the revenues to be around ₹1,200 crore and generate employment to 1,000 people," Joint Managing Director Rajesh Doraiswamy was quoted as saying in the release. "To start with we are focusing on India, as the demand in India is 250 million meters. Exports are also possible," Mr. Doraiswamy added.

The first batch of smart meters is expected to roll out in the first quarter of the next fiscal from the new facility, Salzer said.

CUB eyes 16-17% growth in two years

N. Anand
CHENNAI

City Union Bank Ltd. (CUB) is betting big on the newly introduced digital lending to achieve 16-17% credit growth rate over the next two years, said MD & CEO N. Kamakodi.

"My focus in the next four to eight quarters will be to reach growth rate of about 16-17% so that it increases return on equity and plough back profit to take care of our growth," he said in an interview.

The private sector lender said it is likely to end the current fiscal with a high single-digit credit growth against its earlier target of 12-14%, due to stoppage of Kissan Credit Card agri gold loan following regulatory observation and divergence issue last year. "Due to these disturbances, our daily average advance growth started reducing from 12-14% in December 2022 to 3-4% till September 2023," he said.

N. Kamakodi

"We started the digital lending practices. Things are settling down and this process should support this growth," the CEO added.

According to him, since November, the bank was able to see a monthly credit growth of 1%, or more than ₹400 crore.

Tokyo pledges a further $4.9 bn to help TSMC expand Japan production

Reuters
TOKYO

Japan said it will give TSMC up to ¥732 billion ($4.86 billion) more in subsidies to help it build a second chip fabrication plant as the Taiwanese company on Saturday marked the opening of its first Japanese factory.

TSMC's decision to build chips in Japan has become a key component of Tokyo's push to revive advanced semiconductor manufacturing and harden its industrial supply chains against disruptions as tensions with neighbouring China grow.

Morris Chang

"The chips will be more advanced than the first factory and can be used for AI and autonomous driving, and will ensure we have stable supply of semiconductors in Japan," Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ken Saito told reporters after attending a ceremony for the opening of the first factory in Kumamoto on Japan's Kyushu island, hosted by TSMC's founder Morris Chang.

The latest financial commitment, which will add to money given to the world's biggest chipmaker for its first factory, could push taxpayer-funded subsidies for TSMC beyond ¥1 trillion.

Mass production

TSMC, which is also expanding in the U.S. and Germany, plans to ramp up to mass production in Japan before the end of the year. Total investment in the venture, including a second plant, will exceed more than $20 billion, according to the Taiwanese company. When completed, monthly capacity across the two factories will exceed 100,000 12-inch wafers that TSMC will supply to technology firms and carmakers including Sony and Toyota Motor.

Japan is also investing in a home-grown chip venture, Rapidus, which is partnering with IBM and Imec, a European chip research organisation, in a bid to mass produce cutting-edge chips on the northern island of Hokkaido from 2027.

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THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
GEM Procurement
Bids are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

SL. NO.	Item Category	Quantity (Nos)	Bid Number	Bid Submission Last Date
1.	Smart Solid Waste Management Machine	2	GEM/2024/B/4684796	04-03.2024, 19:00

(SD/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LTD.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :-PW:DIV:MAG:TND(40E):2023-24:JE-2: Dated: 22.02.2024
E-TENDER NOTIFICAT ION
The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under E-tendering in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act **Indent No : 8774** & Indent No. 6878 **Under the Head Of Account : 5054-04-337-0-0-01-154 District And Other Roads Improvements.** Indent No. 8945 **Under the Head Of Account :- 3054-03-337-0-05-200 State Highway Improvements Last date for receipt of above tender :29.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Inviting Tender for KW-3 Any Change in dates of events and value of work put to tender and EMD amount etc only can been seen from e -portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR / MNG / 1430 / MPL / 23-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
Karnataka Building and
Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road,
Bangalore-560029 Phone : 080-29753354/56, E-mail: Karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com
Short Term Tender Notification
No: KBOCWWB/ADMIN/TND/CR-11 to 13/2023-24 Dated : 22.02.2024
Tender (Two bid system-Technical and Financial bids) is hereby invited from interested Agencies for Selection of an Agency for Supplying Data Entry Operators to **(1)** Bengaluru 1 & 2 Region, **(2)** Belagavi & Hassan Region and **(3)** Kalaburgi Region of the Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board as per terms and conditions described in the Bid document notifications.
Tenders shall be submitted electronically through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of the Government of Karnataka. Last date of submission of completed tenders is on **04-03-2024** up to **5.00 pm.**
For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.
Sd/-
Joint Secretary
KB&OCWWB
DIPR/CP/3844/Zen/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
VIJAYANAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BALLARI.
Cantonment Area, Director:8147796529, PA: 8147796539,
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e-mail :directorvimsballari@gmail.com
website: www.vims.karnataka.gov.in
NO. VIMS/SUP/TENDER/16/2023-24 DATE:21.02.2024
RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from providing Man Power (255 No's)Services for Staff Nurse to PMSSY Trauma Care Hospital, VIMS, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit Tender in above said e-portal on or before **29/02/2024**up to 5.00 PM.The total approximate cost of re- tender is **Rs.187.00** Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.vims.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Dean & Director, VIMS, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/904/KSMCA/2023-24

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Finance Department
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
1. Aggregate Amount: **Total Rs.5000 Crore, (Rs.3000 Crore (10 Year Tenure) and Rs.2000 Crore (15 Year Tenure))**
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort).
3. Date of Auction : **February 27, 2024.**
Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**
Sd/- (Dr. P. C. Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department
DIPR/CP/RO/3797/2023-24

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,
CHANNARAYAPATNA, HASSAN DISTRICT
PH.NO: 08176-255411, 254543 email add:
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No. TMC/CRP/EE Tender/CR/08 /2023-24 Date : 22-02-2024
: E-Procurement Tender :
The Chief Officer, TMC, Channarayapatna invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the development of works detailed in the below. The tenderers may submit the tenders as below. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 6TPD MRF Centre Material Recovery Facility of PEB Structure (PRIMARY and SECONDARY SHED) Indent No:-DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT 15621 1] Last date and time for receipt of tenders through E-portal : From 22-02-2024 to 07-03-2024, Time:17.30 2] Time and date of opening of Technical bid : date: 11-03-2024, time 11.00 AM
sd/- (K N Hemantha) Chief Officer , TMC
Channarayapatna
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/822/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/831/2023–24

UNCHARACTERISTIC

Surprised to see unpredictable bounce in Ranchi, says Mhambrey

K.R. DEEPAK

India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey said the unpredictable bounce in Ranchi was a surprise. "Generally, the wicket [here] gets lower and slower as the days progress. But to be honest, we didn't expect it to be playing low on the second day itself. Not the variable bounce that we've seen in the last couple of days."

TO EACH HIS OWN

Our spinners are different from Bashir and Hartley: Mhambrey

K.R. DEEPAK

In light of Shoaib Bashir and Tom Hartley doing well, Mhambrey said their methods may not work for Indian spinners. "Every bowler has his own way. Bashir is not a big spinner of the ball. He's tall, hits the length and keeps it very simple. It's the same for Hartley. I don't think we are really looking at doing something that they've done.

FRESH START

'Grateful and lucky to be given another chance to lead Giants'

SPORTZPICS/WPL

After losing skipper Beth Mooney to injury and finishing last in the inaugural edition, Gujarat Giants is keen to make amends this time. "I can tell you that I've done a fair few calf raises this week since I got here, so hopefully we avoid that again," Mooney said. "I am very grateful and lucky to be given another chance to lead the team."

HIGH PRAISE

Sajana is the Pollard of the women's team, says Yastika

K. MURALI KUMAR

Mumbai Indians' wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia hailed Sajeevan Sajana's last-ball six to clinch a thriller against Delhi Capitals, comparing her to West Indies and MI legend Kieron Pollard. "MI has faith in her and she is the Pollard of the women's team. She's got that role and she did really well," Yastika said.

Bashir's marathon bowling effort puts England in pole position

Root remains unbeaten on 122 while Robinson scores a half-century to propel the visitors to 353; Jaiswal takes the attack to the opposition even as the others crumble around him, leaving the duo of Jurel and Kuldeep with a mountain to climb

ENGLAND IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

Riding on Shoaib Bashir's top-notch bowling effort (4/84), England moved into the ascendency in the fourth Test, reducing India to 219 for seven in reply to its first-innings total of 353.

If not for the unbeaten 42-run association between Dhruv Jurel (30 batting, 58b, 2x4, 1x6) and Kuldeep Yadav (17 batting, 72b, 1x4), things would have been a lot worse by the end of day two at the JSCA Stadium here on Saturday.

Bashir bowled 31 of his 32 overs in one uninterrupted spell that started just before lunch and ended three minutes shy of the scheduled close of play. On an up-and-down wicket, he was remarkably accurate, bowling stump to stump, giving the ball an almighty rip and letting the pitch do the rest.

Shubman Gill (38, 65b, 6x4) and Rajat Patidar (17, 42b, 4x4) were both out leg-before, the former on the front foot and the latter on the back. Yashasvi Jaiswal (73, 117b, 8x4, 1x6) was dismissed when a length ball kept low and the southpaw under-edged it on to his stumps.

Ravindra Jadeja was out bat-pad, the deceptive bounce getting him into a clumsy tangle wherein he was in a half-kneeling position by the time Ollie Pope completed the catch. Left-arm spinner Tom Hartley, who too bowled 18 of his 19 overs on the trot, then got into the act. Sarfaraz Khan was caught sharply by Joe Root at slip, and R. Ashwin, deceived by an arm-ball, was trapped leg-before.

Lion-hearted: Bashir wheeled away to put his team in the box seat. K.R. DEEPAK

It was the third umpire's call to go in England's favour, after Gill's and Patidar's, and from 86 for one, India was down to 177 for seven. But that frenzied period was preceded by a phase where runs came easily. Rohit Sharma sought a new cherry two balls into the day to unsettle overnight batters Root and Ollie Robinson but the latter clubbed five quick boundaries to get to his maiden Test half-century (58, 96b, 9x4, 1x6). After Root (122 n.o., 274b, 10x4) ran out of partners, Robinson returned to bowl, displaying his new-look blonde hair and deliveries in the 120s (km/h). He resembled someone who was savouring his slow weekend morning ritual, and he was treated as one.

Rohit lazily edging James Anderson to 'keeper Ben Foakes in the third over may have kept with the languorous setting, but Jaiswal and Gill's 82-run partnership would soon enliven proceedings.

Gill drove beautifully, especially down the ground and there was also space for his trademark half-cut, half-punch. Jaiswal, on the other hand, scored in clusters. Early on, he straight drove Anderson and flicked the next ball to the square-leg boundary. The same set of shots were replicated against Robinson, with the flick having a more extravagant flourish.

When Bashir was bowling well, he was watchful. In the post-lunch session, Jaiswal's lone boundary-breaching stroke was the six he hit Bashir for, against the turn and after dancing down.

Post-tea, he shifted gears, cutting Bashir behind square for two fours and then lofting the offie over cover in triumphant fashion. But it was the 20-year-old Somerset bowler who would eventually win the battle and leave England in pole position.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS

Zak Crawley b Akash 42 *(42b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Ben Duckett c Jurel b Akash 11 *(21b, 1x4)*, Ollie Pope lbw b Akash 0 *(2b)*, Joe Root (not out) 122 *(274b, 10x4)*, Jonny Bairstow lbw b Ashwin 38 *(35b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Ben Stokes lbw b Jadeja 3 *(6b)*, Ben Foakes c Jadeja b Siraj 47 *(126b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Tom Hartley b Siraj 13 *(26b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ollie Robinson c Jurel b Jadeja 58 *(96b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Shoaib Bashir c Patidar b Jadeja 0 *(2b)*, James Anderson lbw b Jadeja 0 *(4b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-9, nb-5): 19; Total (in 104.5 overs): 353.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-47 (Duckett, 9.2 overs), 2-47 (Pope, 9.4), 3-57 (Crawley, 11.5), 4-109 (Bairstow, 21.2), 5-112 (Stokes, 24.1), 6-225 (Foakes, 67.4), 7-245 (Hartley, 75.3), 8-347 (Robinson, 102.1), 9-349 (Bashir, 102.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 18-3-78-2, Akash 19-0-83-3, Jadeja 32.5-7-67-4, Ashwin 22-1-83-1, Kuldeep 12-4-22-0, Jaiswal 1-0-6-0.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal b Bashir 73 *(117b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Foakes b Anderson 2 *(9b)*, Shubman Gill lbw b Bashir 38 *(65b, 6x4)*, Rajat Patidar lbw b Bashir 17 *(42b, 4x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Pope b Bashir 12 *(12b, 2x6)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Root b Hartley 14 *(53b, 1x4)*, Dhruv Jurel (batting) 30 *(58b, 2x4, 1x6)*, R. Ashwin lbw b Hartley 1 *(13b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (batting) 17 *(72b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-3): 15; Total (for seven wkts. in 73 overs): 219.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Rohit, 2.4), 2-86 (Gill, 24.1), 3-112 (Patidar, 34.3), 4-130 (Jadeja, 36.5), 5-161 (Jaiswal, 46.4), 6-171 (Sarfaraz, 51.3), 7-177 (Ashwin, 55.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 12-4-36-1, Robinson 9-0-39-0, Bashir 32-4-84-4, Hartley 19-5-47-2, Root 1-0-1-0.

Root elated to see teammate Bashir get the rewards

Beaten all ends up: Bashir castled the in-form Jaiswal with a ball that kept low. K.R. DEEPAK

N. Sudarshan
RANCHI

It's a good measure of how good Shoaib Bashir was on day two of the fourth India-England Test here when the first question in the post-match media briefing to centurion Joe Root was about the 20-year-old off-spinner.

Root, the veteran who saved England's blushes on day one, was effusive in his praise for Bashir, whose four wickets (four for 84) in only his second Test pegged India back.

"He has been excellent since he has come into the squad," Root said. "The way he bowls is a good little insight into his character and personality. He is quite cheeky and great fun. There is clearly a huge amount of skill in what he does."

Bashir bowled 31 of his 32 overs on the trot and 18 of those were in tandem with left-arm spinner Tom Hartley (two for 47).

"For [Ben] Stokes to put so much trust in such a young guy who has played so little Test cricket, and for him to step up. You could see that he [Bashir] was desperate to do his part and fill his role. It was great to see him get the rewards."

Root was also relieved with his own batting (122 n.o.), which came on the back of just 77 runs in the first three Tests. What stood out was the 33-year-old completely eschewing unorthodox shots, like the reverse-scoop he got out to in Rajkot.

"It did briefly cross my mind, but on this wicket it's not a great option," Root said. "It was a fleeting and selfish thought that left my mind very quickly.

"If you look at the previous wicket [in Rajkot], it wasn't as bad. The execution of the shot has weighed on me, not necessarily the selection. Batting is about outscoring the opposition to give yourselves the best chance of winning. If you get out, you're out, and it doesn't matter how it looks."

Pro League: India loses to Australia in shootout

Press Trust of India
ROURKELA

The Indian men suffered a heartbreaking 0-3 loss in the shootout to Australia in their FIH Pro League match here on Saturday. The Aussies earned a bonus point for the win.

India was on its way to humble the mighty Australian team and end its unbeaten run in the Odisha leg until Tom Craig scored in the fourth and final quarter to take the match into a shootout.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (20th minute) and Amit Rohidas (29th) scored for the home team while Blake Govers (23rd) and Craig (53rd) found the target for the Australian team in regulation time.

In the shootout, Tim Brand, Ogilvie and Tom Wickham scored for Australia, but Akashdeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay missed their attempts for India.

Wave of attacks

In search of an equaliser after trailing 1-2, Australia launched a wave of attacks but the Indian defence proved equal to the task as goalkeeper S. Sreejesh pulled off a brilliant save with just a few minutes left for the final hooter.

However, Craig found the equaliser for Australia with a field goal to send the contest into a shootout where India came a cropper. The Indians had squandered a two-goal lead to lose 4-6 to the Aussies earlier this month in Bhubaneswar.

Harmanpreet and Rohidas score for India before Govers and Craig pull the Aussies level in regulation time

Asha brings joy to RCB after Meghana-Richa show

WPL SEASON 2

Mayank Chaudhary
BENGALURU

Much of the pain points for UP Warriorz seem to have carried forward from the inaugural season as the Alyssa Healy-led outfit lost its campaign opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore by two runs at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

Asha Shobhana Joy's brilliant five-for, the first Indian to do so in the WPL, sealed the fixture in the home team's favour.

Defending 158, Sophie Molineux gave RCB an early breakthrough, outfoxing Healy in the second over. Debutant Vrinda Dinesh and Tahlia McGrath put on 36 in the PowerPlay.

Asha struck soon after, removing Vrinda and McGrath in the space of three deliveries. However, Grace Harris and Shweta Sehrawat kept Warriorz in the hunt with a 77-run strand for the fourth wicket, taking the score to 126 in 16 overs.

With the target down to 32 in four overs, RCB skipper Smriti Mandhana brought back Asha and she did not disappoint, dismissing Shweta, Harris and Kiran Navgire in one over to change the complexion of the game. Molineux then defended 11 runs in the final over. Earlier, Richa Ghosh (62, 37b, 12x4) and S. Meghana (53, 44b, 7x4, 1x6) helped RCB reach 157. Harris and Tahlia McGrath struck early as RCB lost Sophie Devine and Smriti. Once Ellyse Perry fell cheaply, Meghana found an able ally in Richa, the two forging a 71-run stand.

A late burst from Shreyanka Patil and Molineux took the host to a total that proved just enough.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Sophie Devine lbw b Harris 1 *(5b)*, Smriti Mandhana c Vrinda b McGrath 13 *(11b, 1x4, 1x6)*, S. Meghana st. Healy b Rajeshwari 53 *(44b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Ellyse Perry c Saima b Ecclestone 8 *(7b, 1x4)*, Richa Ghosh b Deepti 62 *(37b, 12x4)*, Georgia Wareham c Harris b Rajeshwari 0 *(3b)*, Sophie Molineux (not out) 9 *(9b, 1x4)*, Shreyanka Patil (not out) 8 *(4b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 157.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Devine, 2.1 overs), 2-36 (Smriti, 5.1), 3-54 (Perry, 7.5), 4-125 (Meghana, 16.1), 5-125 (Wareham, 16.4), 6-144 (Richa, 18.5).

WARRIORZ BOWLING

Harris 3-0-22-1, McGrath 4-0-39-1, Ecclestone 4-0-26-1, Deepti 3-0-23-1, Rajeshwari 4-0-24-2, Saima 2-0-23-0.

UP WARRIORZ

Alyssa Healy b Molineux 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Vrinda Dinesh st. Richa b Asha 18 *(28b, 3x4)*, Tahlia McGrath b Asha 22 *(18b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Grace Harris b Asha 38 *(23b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Smriti b Asha 31 *(25b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Kiran Navgire st. Richa b Asha 1 *(3b)*, Poonam Khemnar b Wareham 14 *(7b, 3x4)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 13 *(9b, 2x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone (not out) 1 *(3b)*; Extras (w-12): 12; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-10 (Healy, 1.2), 2-48 (Vrinda, 8.1), 3-49 (McGrath, 8.3), 4-126 (Shweta, 16.1), 5-127 (Harris, 16.4), 6-128 (Kiran, 16.6), 7-147 (Poonam, 18.4)

RCB BOWLING

Renuka 3-0-14-0, Molineux 4-0-36-1, Shreyanka 3-0-32-0, Asha 4-0-22-5, Wareham 3-0-23-1, Perry 2-0-18-0, Devine 1-0-10-0.

Toss: Warriorz; **PoM:** Asha.

RCB won by two runs.

Sunday's match: Gujarat Giants vs. Mumbai Indians, 7.30 p.m.

Magical night: Asha, with the contest on the edge, did the trick for Royal Challengers. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bayer Leverkusen sets new German 33-match unbeaten record

Agence France-Presse
LEVERKUSEN

A long-range shot from Robert Andrich took Bundesliga leader Bayer Leverkusen to a 2-1 home win against Mainz on Friday, setting a new German record of 33 games unbeaten.

Leverkusen was nervy and made a number of uncharacteristic errors, but the victory takes it 11 points clear of Bayern Munich in its bid for a first-ever Bundesliga title. Leverkusen, which has won 29 and drawn four of its 33 games this season, broke the record set by Hansi Flick's Bayern between 2019 and 2020 – a run which included a Champions League victory.

"I don't care (about records) before they happen, but once they happen, I'm really proud," said coach Xabi Alonso.

Important results: Premier League: Aston Villa 4 (Watkins 4, Luiz 29, 39, Bailey 61) bt Nottingham Forest 2 (Niakhate 45+5, Gibbs-White 48); Brighton 1 (Dunk 90+5) drew with Everton 1 (Branthwaite 73); Crystal Palace 3 (Richards 68, Ayew 72, Mateta 79-pen) bt Burnley 0; Manchester United 1 (Maguire 89) lost to Fulham 2 (Bassey 65, Iwobi 90+7). **LaLiga:** Barcelona 4 (Raphinha 20, Felix 53, de Jong 61, Fermin Lopez 90+1) bt Getafe 0.

On Friday: Bundesliga: Leverkusen 2 (Xhaka 3, Andrich 68) bt Mainz 1 (Kohr 7). **Serie A:** Bologna 2 (Fabbian 27, Freuler 65) bt Verona 0. **LaLiga:** Real Sociedad 1 (Merino 86) lost to Villarreal 3 (Comesana 17, 47, Sorloth 90+5).

INBRIEF

Tvesa Malik clinches maiden international title

Indian golfer Tvesa Malik won in the SuperSport Ladies Challenge, the opening event of the Sunshine Ladies Golf Tour in Sun City on Friday. The 29-year-old Tvesa finally broke through with a final round of 1-under 71 after 71-65 in the first two rounds. Tvesa, lying way down in T-10 after the first round, rose to tied first after her bogey free 65 on the second day. She closed with a 71.

Yathiraj, Pramod, Krishna in Para Badminton Worlds finals

India's Suhas Yathiraj, Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar progressed to the men's singles finals in various categories at the Para Badminton World Championship in Pattaya on Saturday.

The results: Semifinals: Men: SL4: Suhas Yathiraj bt Lucas Mazur (Fra) 21-16, 21-19. **SL3:** Pramod Bhagat bt Manoj Sarkar 23-21, 20-22, 21-18. SH6: Krishna Nagar bt Vitor Tavares (Bra) 21-16, 21-17. **SU5: Women:** Manisha Ramadass bt Maud Lefort (Fra) 19-21, 21-21, 21-14. **SH6: Doubles: Women:** Rachana Shaileshkumar & Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan bt Daria Bujnicka & Oliwia Szmigiel (Ine) 21-16, 21-17.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs England: 4th Test, day 3, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: (Quarterfinals), Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
Serie A: Jio Cinema App, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Monday)

Karun's knock puts Vidarbha in the driver's seat

The former Karnataka batter unlucky to miss a hundred as Kaverappa dismisses him with an unplayable delivery; the visitors lose their skipper Mayank early

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
NAGPUR

Karun Nair plans to get dinner with his old mates in the Karnataka camp in a couple of days. But for now, it is pure business.

Kinship was set aside on Saturday, as Karun's classy 90 gave Vidarbha the upper hand against his former team on the second day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal outing here on Saturday. Vidarbha posted an imposing 460, before Karnataka moved to 98 for two at close of play.

Karun, who spent the first decade of his career in the Karnataka side, put on a driving exhibition. Anything full or on length was met with crisp forward movement and a flowing bat. With timing and elegance, Karun collected boundaries aplenty in the 'V'. The 32-year-old looked on course to score his third hundred of the season, until he received an unplayable delivery from pacer Vidwath Kaverappa which flattened his off stump.

Karun explained that while it "felt different" to bat against his pals, the end goal remained unchanged. "I play to win. It doesn't matter who I play against. I'm not very satisfied with this knock. I'm disappointed that I could not get a big hundred," Karun said.

Driving force: Karun picked up boundaries in the 'V' with great timing and elegance. ASHWIN ACHAL

Handy contributions from Aditya Sarvate (26), Harsh Dubey (20), Yash Thakur (31) and Umesh Yadav (21 n.o.) added heft to Vidarbha's cause. With spinners Hardik Raj and Dheeraj Gowda rendered ineffective, Karnataka fast bowlers Kaverappa (four for 99), V. Vyshak (one for 88) and V. Koushik (one for 70) did the heavy lifting.

The trio showed the resolve to bowl 96.1 overs between them, even if results did not come easy.

Wicketkeeper Sharath Srinivas displayed great athleticism when he dived to his left to snap up Sarvate. Srinivas then ran in to collect a poor throw, and flicked it underhand back onto the stumps to catch Aditya Thakare short of the crease.

Karnataka desperately needed its batters to grind and inspire hope. In this regard, captain Mayank Agarwal and youngster K.V. Aneesh failed.

Facing only his third delivery, Mayank attempted a loose shot outside off and nicked it.

Aneesh (34, 48b, 6x4) looked good in patches, but as stumps approached, he gifted his wicket away by fishing well away from the body. Opener R. Samarth (43 batting) and Nikin Jose (20 batting) lived to fight another day.

RANJI SCORES, QUARTERFINALS, DAY 2

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 460 in 143.1 overs (Karun Nair 90, Vidwath Kaverappa 4/99) vs Karnataka 98/2 in 24 overs (R. Samarth 43 batting).
At Mumbai: Mumbai 384 in 140.4 overs (Musheer Khan 203 n.o., Hardik Tamore 57, Bhargav Bhatt 7/112) vs Baroda 127/2 in 35 overs (Shashwat Rawat 69 batting).
At Coimbatore: Saurashtra 183 vs Tamil Nadu 300/6 in 100 overs (Sai Kishore 60, B. Indrajith 80, M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar 65).
At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 234 in 81.1 overs (Saransh Jain 41 n.o.) & 21/0 in 7 overs vs Andhra 172 in 68.3 overs.

The scores:

Vidarbha — 1st innings: Atharva Taide lbw b Hardik 109, Dhruv Shorey lbw b Koushik 12, Yash Rathod c Jose b Kaverappa 93, Karun Nair b Kaverappa 90, Akshay Wadkar c Samarth b Kaverappa 16, Mohit Kale c Jose b Hardik 16, Aditya Sarvate c Sharath b Kaverappa 26, Harsh Dubey c Sharath b Dheeraj 20, Yash Thakur c Samarth b Vyshak 31, Umesh Yadav (not out) 21, Aditya Thakare run out 7; Extras (b-6, lb-10, w-3): 19; Total (in 143.1 overs): 460.
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-206, 3-251, 4-284, 5-319, 6-374, 7-389, 8-419, 9-443.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 31.1-9-99-4, Koushik 34-8-70-1, Vyshak 31-7-88-1, Dheeraj 19-1-76-1, Hardik 21-3-89-2, Samarth 7-0-22-0.
Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth (batting) 43, Mayank Agarwal c Wadkar b Thakare 0, K.V. Aneesh c Wadkar b Thakur 34, Nikin Jose (batting) 20; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for two wkts. in 24 overs): 98.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-63.
Vidarbha bowling: Umesh 5-0-27-0, Thakare 7-1-29-1, Sarvate 5-1-8-0, Thakur 3-0-22-1, Dubey 4-0-11-0.

Pariat, Abhay extend their domination

INCRC

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Teenagers Jaden Rahman Pariat and Abhay Mohan extended their domination in the MRF Formula 2000 and the MRF Formula 1600 categories on the first day of the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MIC here on Saturday.

Displaying impressive pace, 17-year-old Jaden added another win to the double he had secured last weekend in the first round. Abhay (15) clinched his fourth win in as many starts in his category.

Biren Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing), who started from pole position, also remained unbeaten in the premium Indian Touring Cars category, recording his third straight win.

The results (provisional, eight laps unless mentioned):

MRF F2000 (Race-1): 1. Jaden Rahman Pariat 12:33.263s; 2. Chetan Surineni 12:44.187; 3. Tarun Muthiaiah 13:36.416.

MRF F1600 (Race-1): 1. Abhay Mohan 13:43.696; 2. Raaj Bakhru 13:50.840; 3. Zahan Commissariat 13:53.611.

Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Biren Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing) 15:22.341; 2. Deepak Ravikumar (Team Performance Racing) 15:29.202; 3. Ananth Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing) 16:18.191.

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Srinivas Teja (Team Performance Racing) 15:46.971; 2. Hatim Shabbir Jamnagarwala (Team Performance Racing) 15:47.191; 3. Yokeshwaran (Team Performance Racing) 16:02.475.

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. Anirudha Arvind (Redline Racing India) 16:52.643; 2. Balaprasath (DTS Racing) 17:01.063; 3. Jarshan Anand (DB Motorsports) 17:08.532.

SNAPSHOTS

Indian compound archers bag two gold medals

Indian compound archers bagged two of the three team gold medals in the Asia Cup Stage-1 in Baghdad on Saturday. While India claimed the men's and mixed team gold medals, it suffered a defeat to Iran in the women's team final.

The results: Compound: Team, finals: Men: India (Priyansh, Kushal Dalal, Prathamesh Jawkar) bt Iran (Arash Ghaseimpour, Amin Pakzad, Behnia Radrezvan) 232-229; **Women:** Iran (Bita Asheghzaldeh, Fatemeh Hemmati, Haleh Izadkhah) bt India (Priya Gurjar, Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami) 229-223. **Mixed:** India (Aditi Swami, Prathamesh Jawkar) bt Iran (Fatemeh Hemmati, Amin Pakzad) 159-157.

Individual: Bronze medal match: Women: Aditi Swami bt Priya Gurjar 148-145.

India adds more gold, silver

The Indian cyclists continued their dominant show to add four more medals, including two gold, in the Asian Track Cycling Championship in New Delhi on Saturday. Harshita Jakhar (2:32.081) won the silver in the individual pursuit in the women's junior category. In para-cycling, Arshad Shaikh clinched his third gold of the event.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-28:2023-24: Dated:- 23.02.2024
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through e-Procurement Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work:- Two cover System:- Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements:- (1) Improvements to Hirehalli - Gowrasamdra Road from Km 0.00 to 7.70 in Molakalmuru Constituency in Challakere Taluk. (Working Reach Km 0.00 to 0.50, Km 0.80 to 2.70 & Km 3.20 to 5.20) (WI.9042) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-500.00 (2) Improvements to Talaku to Doddaullarthi Road from Km 0.00 to 7.00 in Molakalmuru Constituency in Challakere Taluk. (Working Reach Km 0.00 to 4.00) (WI.9041) Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-450.00
Tender dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 11-03-2024 Time: 17.30 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 12-03-2024 Time: 16.00 Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 13-03-2024 Time: 16.15 Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 15-03-2024 Time: 11.00 Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/625/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Chitradurga.**

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
First Floor, SSLR Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001
Phone: 080-22113255
No: BMC/2023-24/IND 0008 Date: 23.02.2024
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender is invited for procurement of 735 Finger Print Reader to Bhoomi Kendra of Taluk Tahasil Office of All District of Karnataka. The Last Date for uploading filled tender form in e-procurement portal is **02.03.2024 by 5.30 PM.** Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner,
DIPR/CP/3867(2)/2023-24 **Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi
Ph No : 08472 - 278604, Fax No : 08472 – 278604
E-mail: ka.kalaburagi.dudc@gmail.com www.kalaburagidudc.mrc.gov.in
No.DUDC/Indira Canteen/ 01 /2023-24 Date: 23.02.2024
:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::
The Deputy Commisssioner Kalaburagi District: Kalabuargi invites tender in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 rules 2000 through E-Procurement 2.0 Portal in two cover system using **KG-2** document from the service providers for providing Hotel/Restaurant services for **"INDIRA CATEEN"** of Chincholi and Chittapur TMC Limits Kalaburagi District works as detailed below:-
1) Description of Work : **TENDER No: DMA/2023-24/IND1602,** 2) Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs): **113.15,** 3) EMD Amount (Rs. In lakhs): **1.69**
Caterer/Suppliers can download and submit the tenders from dated: 23.02.2024 through E-procurement 2.0 portal at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1) Pre Bid Meeting Date Commenced on : **29.02.2024 at 11.00 AM**, 2) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **01.03.2024 up to 5.30 PM,** 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **02.03.2024 up to 5.30 PM**, 4) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **04.03.2024 at 11.00 AM**, 5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **07.03.2024 at 11.00 AM**
Postponement of Calendar of events (or if any information is only published through e-Procurement 2.0 portal only) and will not be published in newspapers.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/897/KSMC&A/2023-24 **Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)
No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/23-24/5753&5767 Date: 23.02.2024
KPTCL invites bids for the following works

1) BID ENQUIRY No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2023-24/Additional Wadi, Call-4/Dated: 22.02.2024 for Providing additional 1x10MVA Power Transformer along with additional switch gear at 110/11KV Wadi Sub Station in Chittapur Taluka, Kalaburagi District including supply of equipments / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

2) BID ENQUIRY No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2022-23/Additional Chincholi-Call-3 Dtd:22.02.2024 for Providing Additional 1X10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer along with additional switch gear at 110/33/11KV Chincholi Sub station in Chincholi Taluk, Kalaburagi Dist. including supply of equipments / materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

3) BID ENQUIRY No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2023-24/Afzalpur Capacitor Bank-Call-3, Dtd:22.02.2024 for Providing 20 MVAr Capacity, 110 kV voltage class Capacitor Bank along with allied equipments at 110/33/11 kV Afzalpur sub-station in Afzalpur Taluk,Kalaburagi District.

4) BID ENQUIRY No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2023-24/Additional Nalwar,Call-4 Dtd:23.02.2024 for Providing Additional 1X10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer at 110/33/11kV Nalwar Sub-Station in Chittapur Taluk, Kalaburagi Dist. including supply of equipments/materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).

Tenders will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPP Portal process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or directly logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"List of Tenders" on or after 28.02.2024**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele., Trans (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi Phone (08472-256176)

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ,
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಉನಸ:ಜಿಪ:ಸಿಆರ್:ಟಿ.ಪ್ರ:2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.02.2024
ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯು 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ Standard Bid Document K.W -4 ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
1) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.03.2024 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2) Queries/Clarifications ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ 15.03.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
3) ಟೆಂಡರು ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.03.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4) ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.03.2024ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
5) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.03.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ	ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸಾಕ್ಷನ್‌ಫೀ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ
1	ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಬಜೆ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಪುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇತುವೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಣಿ ಸೇತುವೆ ತನಕ (ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ –2) ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಹೂಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ DMA/2023-24/SE2078	495.00ಲಕ್ಷ	7.50ಲಕ್ಷ	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	12ತಿಂಗಳು
2	ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಬಜೆ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮಾಣಿ ಸೇತುವೆಯಿಂದ ಶಿರೂರು ಸೇತುವೆ ತನಕ (ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ –3) ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಹೂಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ DMA/2023-24/SE2079	241.60ಲಕ್ಷ	3.70ಲಕ್ಷ	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	12ತಿಂಗಳು
3	ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿರುವ ಬಜೆ ಡ್ಯಾಂಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಬಜೆ ಕಂಡಿ ಅಣಿಕಟ್ಟಿನಿಂದ ಪುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ತನಕ (ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ –1) ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಹೂಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆಯುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ DMA/2023-24/SE2077	498.00ಲಕ್ಷ	7.50ಲಕ್ಷ	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ	12ತಿಂಗಳು

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರು ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

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Bengaluru keeps playoff hopes alive

The home side makes Chhetri's 150th ISL special with a win over Hyderabad; honours even between Odisha and Mohun Bagan

ISL-10

Sports Bureau

Bengaluru FC bounced back to winning ways with a captivating 2-1 victory against Hyderabad FC on Sunil Chhetri's 150 Indian Super League appearance in Bengaluru to cap off the Saturday double header.

The Blues (18) have moved to the eighth spot with this victory, just two short of the sixth-placed Jamshedpur FC.

For a large chunk of the game, it appeared that their bid for the same would take a jolt, but specially with the deadlock not being broken 70 minutes into the match.

However, the final 20 minutes saw an intense back and forth battle that saw the struggling Hyderabad trail, equalise, and fall back in the proceedings again to return home with no points to its name.

Impact player: Sivasakthi netted the winner. FOCUS SPORTS/ISL

Earlier, Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant played out a goalless draw in Bhubaneswar.

The results: Bengaluru FC 2 (Hernandez 71, Sivasakthi Narayanan 87) bt Hyderabad FC 1 (Ramhlunchhunga 80).

At Bhubaneswar: Odisha FC 0 drew with Mohun Bagan Super Giant 0.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

Yadhu is the star

N. Yadhu's all-round effort (148 & 5/49) helped Soundarya Central School defeat Global Indian, Whitefield, by 143 runs in the BTR Shield U-14 (Group I) third division tournament.

The scores: Global Indian, Whitefield, 274 in 49.3 overs (Rohit Nair 34, N. Yadhu 148, Aryan 3/43, Pretham 3/34) bt Soundarya Central 131 in 28.3 overs (N. Yadhu 5/49).

Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, East 43 in 22 overs (Sai Vikranth 6/17) lost to Poorna Vikas Vidyalaya 46 in 6.5 overs.

Vagdevi Vilas 190 in 43.5 overs (Kushaal 101, Aarav Panwar 3/17, Medha Venkat 3/48) lost to White Field GS 192/4 in 26.3 overs (Tattva 70, Vivaan 36 n.o.).

PNC Cognito 144 in 37.3 overs (Nanehs Henan 61, Syed Shuaib 3/38, N. Hemish 3/25) lost to Holy Cross 147/7 in 38.5 overs (Farhan Javed 34, Md. Mussabbir Hossain 62 n.o., Aarav Mishra 5/35).

New Baldwin IS 68 in 19.3 overs (Sourabh 4/3) lost to Venkata IPS 69/2 in 22.2 overs.

NPS, B-61, 205 in 48 overs (Vismai 26, Arhan 39, Deeraj 3/27) lost to PSBB Learning Leadership 90 in 35.4 overs (Aayan 32, Samith 6/20).

NPS, B-8, 167 50 in overs (Vedanth 54, Kanishk 30) lost to DPS 171/3 in 34.3 overs (Aarya 27, Vedanth 58, Vishruth 35, Ansuman 17); KLE English Medium, Malur, 176 in 36.5 overs (Gagan 30, Ajith 4/25) lost to Universal PS, Ramanagar, 179/3 in 28.4 overs (Azeez 51, Govardhan 56 n.o.).

Ashwin's ton spurs Karnataka Youth

M.N. Ashwin Kumar scored an unbeaten 128 as Karnataka Youth CA, Malur beat Gandhinagar Cricketers by five wickets in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division tournament.

The scores: Ranji 47 in 16.5 overs (Arjun N. Gowda 4/26, V. Bharath Kumar 4/15) lost to Citizen Cultural CA 51/4 in 13.5 overs (Nikhil Sharma 3/21).

Bangalore Indian 266/6 in 50 overs (Ameet Yadav 82, Ayush M. Patil 47, Dhruv Santhosh Rao 44 n.o., Sachith Shenoy Konchady 25) bt Chamarajpet CC 121 in 24.5 overs (H.A. Punith 42, Suresh Krishnan 4/20).

Gandhinagar Cricketers 284/9 in 50 (Tirupathi 25, Pranshu J. Patel 52 n.o., Y.G. Dhananjayalu 43, P. Ravikumar 4/42) lost to Karnataka Youth CA, Malur 287/5 in 42.1 overs (M.J. Sagar 81, M.N. Ashwin Kumar 128 n.o).

Bangalore Star CA 207 in 46.4 overs (Chandan Lal 29, Rubesh Babu 27, Chethan 55, K.M. Bhanu Prakash 46, Rohit Antaal 4/24) bt Jaidur Cricketers 203 in 37.2 overs (Chiranjivi Nagaraja Reddy 27, K. Somashekar 32, Jibin John 67, K.M. Bhanu Prakash 4/31).

No denying Schopman's contribution, but in the end results matter

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Janneke Schopman officially quit as chief coach of Indian women's hockey team on Friday, bringing the curtains down on her two-year tenure as the first-ever woman in the role.

It had been a roller-coaster for the Dutchwoman, stepping up from analytical coach to compatriot Sjoerd Marijne after the Tokyo Olympics in a rare instance of continuity in Indian hockey. But professional sports is tough business, more so in team events, one that requires a hundred different things to fall in place at the right time and moment to ensure elusive success. The parameter to measure that success is just one – results.

As a coach, Schopman's tenure saw the Indian women manage to do the first to a large extent. The second, however, remained a mixed bag. The team's best outcomes in major events came at the 2022 Nations Cup (earning a Pro League spot), bronze at 2023 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and the Asian Champions Trophy (winners).

At other competitions, the disappointment was glaring – ninth at the 2022 World Cup, third at the Asia Cup but the biggest was missing the Paris Olympics after finishing fourth out of eight teams in Ranchi. For a team she took charge of on a high of fourth position at Tokyo, this was the biggest setback.

Schopman. FILE PHOTO

She tried to build a team for the future, bringing in youngsters like Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari from the junior ranks and creating a group that was more than any of its individual parts

There is no denying the positivity she brought into the team. The Indian women displayed a brand of attacking hockey that mirrored its confidence. She tried to build a team for the future, bringing in youngsters like Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari from the junior ranks and creating a group that was more than any of its individual parts.

But her handling of senior players has been questioned. She recently opened up on how Rani Rampal did not fit into her plans going forward, but there were other players as well. Gurjit Kaur was a mainstay with her potent drag-flicks, but fell off the radar after Tokyo and when she returned at the Olympic Qualifiers, she was a shadow of her old self. Deep Grace Ekka, who stepped in when required, refused to be with the team just before the Qualifiers amidst rumours of a rift and announced her retirement soon after.

India, under her, played six major semifinals – and lost four of them, two in shoot-outs. The Indian women have shown they have the ability to take on the best sides but not being able to convert their chances into goals, a problem that pre-dates Schopman, is one the reasons for questions on her role.

Hockey India is, for now, taking its time to decide the future course of action. With the European leg of the Pro League only in May and not much action till Paris Olympics, the federation has time to find Schopman's replacement. Senior officials have insisted there would be no ad-hoc appointments.

"There is the World Cup in 2026 and then the LA Olympics in 2028. We will continue on the development course that we have set. The long-term targets haven't changed so any decision will be made with those in mind," they have insisted.

For now, Schopman's resignation is simply the end of yet another tumultuous chapter in the history of Indian hockey.

Vacherot. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Vacherot has the final say against Sweeny

MAHA OPEN

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Valentin Vacherot unleashed his big game at the crunch to snuff out Dane Sweeny's challenge 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals of the $133,250 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament on Saturday.

Sweeny was at his crafty best, clinching the first set with a break in the 10th game, but Vacherot found his rhythm to claw back into the match. In the decider, Vacherot who had the final say.

In the final, Vacherot will be up against the 24-year-old Adam Walton who had to endure anxious moments as second seed Duje Ajdukovic saved five match points.

Walton led 7-5, 5-2 when Ajdukovic started firing on all cylinders. The latter had a set point at 6-5 in the tiebreak, but couldn't convert it. Walton, who prevailed 7-5, 7-6(6), will be looking to add to his seven singles titles, including two from Challengers.

The duo won an entertaining duel against Dan Added and Yunseong Chung 7-6(4), 7-5.

The results: Singles, semifinals: Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Dane Sweeny (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Adam Walton (Aus) bt Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) 7-5, 7-6(6).

Doubles, final: Tristan Schoolkate & Adam Walton (Aus) bt Dan Added (Fra) & Yunseong Chung (Kor) 7-6(4), 7-5.

Lashka should make amends in the N. Nari Reddy Memorial Million

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's Lashka, who ran second in her last start, should make amends in the N. Nari Reddy Memorial Million, the feature event of Sunday's (Feb. 25) races.

1 TIME AND PLACE PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only – 1.10: 1. Aashritha Pet (5) P. Sai Kumar 56, 2. Golden Unicorn (3) A.A. Vikrant 56, 3. Gun For Gold (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 4. Prince (8) R.S. Jodha 56, 5. Always Special (7) Surya Prakash 54.5, 6. Arion One (2) Hindu Singh 54.5, 7. Imperia (4) Deepak Singh 54.5 and 8. Newfound Glory (1) Santosh Raj 54.5.

1. GUN FOR GOLD, 2. ARION ONE, 3. ALWAYS SPECIAL

2 FLIRTING VISION PLATE (2,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.40: 1. China Town (3) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 60, 2. Hero Of The East (5) Abhay Singh 60, 3. Alpine Girl (7) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 59, 4. Voice Of A Dream (2) Ashad Asbar 57.5, 5. Carnival Lady (8) Surya Prakash 56.5, 6. Crown Witness (4) P. Sai Kumar 56.5, 7. Caraxes (6) Afroz Khan 56 and 8. London Bell (1) Md Ekram Alam 51.5.

1. CROWN WITNESS, 2. HERO OF THE EAST, 3. LONDON BELL

3 TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY (Div. II) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.10: 1. The Inheritor (3) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. Amyra (11) Afroz Khan 58, 3. See My Spark (10) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 57, 4. Splendour On Grass (6) Santosh Raj 55, 5. Coming Home (4) G. Naresh 54.5, 6. Adbhut (9) Md Ekram Alam 53.5, 7. Salisbury (8) Rafique Sk. 52.5, 8. Miracle Mary (1) Hindu Singh 52, 9. Hoping Star (5) Mohit Singh 51.5, 10. Star Racer (2) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 11. Shadow Fax (7) Ajay Kumar 50.5.

1. THE INHERITOR, 2. MIRACLE MARY, 3. COMING HOME

4 CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY (Div. II) (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.45: 1. True Icon (4) Md Ekram Alam 61, 2. Fly Tothe Stars (2) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 57.5, 3. Path Of Peace (5) Ashad Asbar 55, 4. Burgundy Black (6) Mohit Singh 54, 5. Role Model (7) Nakhat Singh 53.5, 6. Beauty Flame (8) P. Sai Kumar 53, 7. N R I Ultrapower (3) Kaviraj 51.5 and 8. Hurricane Bay (1) Afroz Khan 50.

1. BEAUTY FLAME, 2. HURRICANE BAY, 3. PATH OF PEACE

5 TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNER ASSOCIATION TROPHY (Div. I) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.15: 1. Proud Mary (1) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. Tripurari (4) Mohit Singh 60, 3. Ragnarok (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 57.5, 4. Red Snaper (3) Rafique Sk. 56.5, 5. Colt Pistol (7) Hindu Singh 55, 6. Worcester (11) Afroz Khan 55, 7. Santa Barbara (8) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 8. Only The Brave (12) Md. Ismail 53, 9. Pinatubo (2) Surya Prakash 52.5, 10. Pontefract (5) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 52, 11. Bold Beauty (10) Santosh Raj 51 and 12. Calista Girl (9) Ajay Kumar 51.

1. RAGNAROK, 2. TRIPURARI, 3. COLT PISTOL

6 N NARI REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o only – 3.45: 1. Lashka (4) Ashad Asbar 56, 2. Calistoga (1) Afroz Khan 54.5, 3. Flying Fury (3) Md. Ismail 51.5, 4. Rolls Royce (6) Nakhat Singh 51.5, 5. Sargent (2) G. Naresh 51.5 and 6. Star Forever (5) P. Sai Kumar 50.

1. LASHKA, 2. CALISTOGA, 3. STAR FOREVER

7 CHIEF JUSTICE TROPHY (Div. I) (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 4.15: 1. Nightmare (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 61, 2. Divine Destiny (2) Surya Prakash 59, 3. Just Incredible (4) A.A. Vikrant 55, 4. Wallop And Gallop (8) G. Naresh 54.5, 5. Trishul (3) Ashad Asbar 54, 6. First Class (5) Mohit Singh 53.5, 7. Sundance Kid (7) Abhay Singh 52 and 8. Grand Duke (1) Mohit Singh 51.5.

1. TRISHUL, 2. DIVINE DESTINY, 3. SUNDANCE KID

8 OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.45: 1. Fara (2) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 62.5, 2. City Cruise (7) R.S. Jodha 61.5, 3. Assured Success (8) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 4. Master Touch (1) Mohit Singh 58, 5. Indian Temple (11) Surya Prakash 55.5, 6. Rochelle (4) Ajay Kumar 55.5, 7. Lady Racines (9) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 55, 8. That's My Pathan (6) Rafique Sk. 55, 9. Eminency (10) Md. Ekram Alam 54.5, 10. Wandring Warrior (3) Abhay Singh 54 and 11. Tortilla Chip (5) P. Sai Kumar 53.5.

1. FARA, 2. WANDRING WARRIOR, 3. TORTILLA CHIP

Day's Best: **LASHKA**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

SNAPSHOTS

Karnataka holds Mizoram

Defending champion Karnataka held former champion Mizoram to a 2-2 draw in a Group B league encounter of the Santosh Trophy in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh on Saturday.

Karnataka has two points from two outings.

The results: Group B: Karnataka 2 (Prabin Tigga 67, R. Vishal 69) drew with Mizoram 2 (Dawngliana 13, Malsawmzuala 47); Manipur 2 (Rojen Wahengbam 40, Kabiraj Singh 88) bt Maharashtra 1 (Azfar Noorani 14); Delhi 4 (Vivek Kumar 34, Jaideep Singh 50, 76, Milind Negi 68) bt Railways 0.

Abhay storms into the final

Abhay Singh made the final of the Goodfellow Classic squash in Toronto with a 3-1 win over Abdelrahman Abdelkhalek. The top-seeded Indian won 11-5, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6 in the semifinal of the $9,000 event to advance to his second PSA Challenger Tour summit clash in as many months after winning JSW Willingdon event in Mumbai.

Sofiya wins the P.V. Shetty Memorial Cup

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi trained Sofiya (Shreyas Singh up) won the P.V. Shetty Memorial Cup, the main event of the races held here on Saturday (Feb 24).

The winner is owned by Mr. Daulat Chhabria & M/s. Blazing Saddles(PF). Jockey Srinath won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS

1. RAICHUR PLATE: SEA DIAMOND (P. Sai K) 1, Quevega (M. Rajesh K) 2, Marco Polo (I. Chisty) 3 and Pettes Love (M. Naveen) 4. Shd, 4 and Shd. 1m 40.77s. Rs. 57 (w), 19, 19 and 14 (p), SHP: 130, THP: 67, FP: 1,079, Q: 487, Trinella: 2,221, Exacta: 16,462. Favourite: Marco Polo.

Owners: Mr. M. Sridhar & M/S. Seabliss Racing LLP. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

2. MAJ. C. NEWTON-DAVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II): INSPIRE (Srinath) 1, Rise And Reign (P. Siddaraju) 2, Martino (Arvind K) 3 and Gismo (Vivek) 4. 6, 1/2 and 5-1/4. 1m 12.99s. Rs. 13 (w), 10, 10 and 19 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 37, FP: 45, Q: 32, Trinella: 181, Exacta: 351. Favourite: Inspire.

Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, Mr. Haider Soomar, Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

3. MUSSOORIE STAKES: MACRON (Arvind K) 1, Kallu Sakkare (R. Pradeep) 2, Ultimate Striker (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Southern Force (I. Chisty) 4. 1-1/2, 1-3/4 and Lnk. 1m 12.97s. Rs. 27 (w), 11, 15 and 45 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 92, FP: 79, Q: 26, Trinella: 1,013, Exacta: 5,659. Favourite: Macron.

Owner: Mr. Arun Kumar K.N. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

4. RED FORT PLATE (DIV. II): TREASURE CHEST (Srinath) 1, Seventh Samurai (S. John) 2, Samachar (Jagadeesh) 3 and Sunlit Path (S. Shareef) 4. 1-1/2, 6-1/4 and 4. 1m 26.68s. Rs. 32 (w), 12, 10 and 18 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 36, FP: 35, Q: 19, Trinella: 121, Exacta: 311. Favourite: Seventh Samurai.

Owner: Mr. G.S. Reddy. Trainer: S. Dominic.

5. MAHADAYI PLATE (DIV. II): BREEZE BLUSTER (Darshan) 1, Phoenix Surprise (Shreyas) 2, Knotty In Blue (Jagadeesh) 3 and Mega Success (I. Chisty) 4. 4-3/4, 3/4 and 2. 1m 12.90s. Rs. 37 (w), 17, 34 and 14 (p), SHP: 119, THP: 45, FP: 424, Q: 481, Trinella: 4,697, Exacta: 25,942. Favourite: Ooh La La.

Owners: Mr. Srinath Byregowda, Mrs. Divyajyothi C.M, Mrs. Champa Sharath & Mr. Rakesh Kumar. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

6. MAJ. C. NEWTON-DAVIS MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I): DEL AVIZ (Srinath) 1, Magnetic (I. Chisty) 2, Silicon Star (R. Pradeep) 3 and Bowen (P. Surya) 4. Not run: Jordano and Star Honour. 4, 5-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m 12.66s. Rs. 27 (w), 10, 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 24, FP: 36, Q: 13, Trinella: 63, Exacta: 233. Favourite: Magnetic.

Owners: Hyperion Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr & Mrs. Farouq K. Rattonsey, Mr. Sameer F. Rattonsey, Mr. Zaheer F. Rattonsey, Mr. Nitin Himmatmal Jain & Mr. Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. P.V. SHETTY MEMORIAL CUP: SOFIYA (Shreyas) 1, Del Mar (Darshan) 2, Aldgate (S. John) 3 and Tripitaka (I. Chisty) 4. 4-1/4, Hd and Nose. 1m 12.16s. Rs. 23 (w), 12, 15 and 13 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 37, FP: 113, Q: 55, Trinella: 267, Exacta: 724. Favourite: Sofiya.

Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & M/s. Blazing Saddles(PF). Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

8. RED FORT PLATE (DIV. I): IRISH ROCKSTAR (I. Chisty) 1, Blue God (S. John) 2, Amazing Attraction (Darshan) 3 and Serai (P. Siddaraju) 4. 1, 3-1/2 and Hd. 1m 25.99s. Rs. 29 (w), 18, 10 and 19 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 40, FP: 66, Q: 39, Trinella: 337, Exacta: 1,219. Favourite: Blue God.

Owner: Mr. Kishore M. Dingra. Trainer: Darisu Byramji.

9. MAHADAYI PLATE (DIV. I): BORN DANCER (M. Naveen) 1, Remontoir (S. John) 2, The Strikingly (R. Pradeep) 3 and Osiris (Mark) 4. 2-3/4, 2 and Shd. 1m 13.61s. Rs. 17 (w), 14, 14 and 19 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 53, FP: 38, Q: 57, Trinella: 140, Exacta: 1,342. Favourite: Born Dancer.

Owner: Mr. S.T. Kalappa. Trainer: Warren Singh.

Jackpot: Rs. 1,342 (181 tkts).

Runner-up: 300 (347 tkts).

Treble (i): 307 (19 tkts); (ii): 354 (20 tkts); (iii): 145 (72 tkts).